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# The KINGBIRD

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# REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2008

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter "NYSARC" or the "Committee") reviewed 159 reports from 2008, involving 98 separate sightings, and an additional five reports from previous years. Reports were received from all over the state, with 29 of the 62 counties represented. The number of reports accompanied by photographs remains high. The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to eBird, listserves, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and *Kingbird* Regional Editors are not necessarily forwarded to NYSARC, and doing so remains the responsibility of the observer. The growing use of the internet and mobile phones has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate birds found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 93 contributors that submitted materials (written reports, photographs and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors mentioned above, several *Kingbird* Regional Editors have helped observers to prepare and submit documentation. We also wish to thank Andrew Farnsworth for bringing the Band-tailed Pigeon report to our attention and for encouraging eBird contributors to submit details of NYSARC reportable rarities.

## HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site:

http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/NYSARChome.htm

Here, a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) is provided along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA President and website administrator) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. Documentation (written reports and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email or regular mail to:

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Road
Churchville, NY 14428
E-mail: nysarc3@nybirds.org

## COMMITTEE NEWS

At the end of December 2009, Shai Mitra rotated off the Committee at the end of his term and has been replaced by Tom Johnson. The Committee is grateful to Shai for his dedication and expert input. We look forward to continuing a close collaboration through Shai's role as Editor of *The Kingbird*. Tom Johnson is a native of Pennsylvania but has become a familiar name across the state, especially in central NY. A student at Cornell University, Tom lives in Ithaca but travels widely in search of birds. His superb field skills and knowledge of the distribution and migration of North American birds will be of great value to the Committee.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the 2008 Annual Report include two new additions to the New York State Checklist: **Band-tailed Pigeon** (*Patagioenas faciata*) and **'Yellow' Wagtail** (*Motacilla tsuhutschensis/citreola*), both on Long Island. Other highly significant records include the second and third **Pink-footed Geese** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), both on Long Island, the third accepted record of **Anhinga** (*Anhinga anhinga*) from near Cortland and the third **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*), an adult at Jamaica Bay. A **Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*) on Cayuga Lake was one of very few inland records.

## 2008 Reports Accepted

**Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)**
**2008-3-A/C** One, Stony Brook Mill Pond, Stony Brook, **Suffolk**, 9 Feb-22 Mar (Luci Betti Nash, Douglas J. Futuyma, Bill Marrs; ph L. Nash, B. Marrs, sketch D. Futuyma)
**2008-86-A/G** One, Kissena Park & Corona Park, Flushing, Queens, 27 Dec–2 Jan 2009 (Angus Wilson, Steve Walter, Jacob Drucker, Shaibal S. Mitra, Shawn Billerman, Seth Ausubel, Seymour Schiff; ph A. Wilson, S. Walter, S. Mitra, S. Billerman, S. Ausubel, S. Schiff)
The Stony Brook goose was discovered by Saul Satin on 3 Feb, coming hot on the heels of the well-watched bird near Montauk (NYSARC 2007-53-A/E), which remained until the spring of 2008. The two locations are 66 miles apart; the two birds were simultaneously reported on a number of days and comparison of photos showed clear differences in the patterns of the pink skin at the base of

the bill. The Stony Brook goose was fairly elusive, spending the majority of daylight hours elsewhere (likely the fields and marshes surrounding the Nissequogue Estuary) and only using the mill pond as an overnight roost. The Queens Pink-footed Goose was discovered on 27 Dec by Eric Miller. It was seen repeatedly on the grassy playing fields at Kissena Park or about 1.5 miles away in Flushing Meadow-Corona Park, in both instances feeding with Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). Again, careful study of the pattern of pink flesh on the bill established that this bird was different from the two seen in the previous winter. This bird remained in the area until 12 Jan 2009. These constitute the second and third records for NYS. Increased protection of Pink-footed Goose populations on their wintering grounds in Western Europe and the ever growing numbers of Canada Geese traveling between western Greenland and the Mid-Atlantic states may account for the recent and unprecedented surge in reports from New York and elsewhere in the northeast.

**Black Brant (*Branta bernicans nigricans*)**

**2008-21-A** One, Wolfe's Pond Park, Staten Island, **Richmond,** 6 Apr (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra came across this handsome male during a zoology class field trip to the south shore of Staten Island. It is likely the same bird that was seen a week earlier by Tom Burke, Gail Benson, and Seth Wollney. Reports of Black Brant in New York stretch back to 1840 and have steadily increased in frequency, typically from the shores of the outer New York harbor (including South Amboy, NJ) or southern coastline of Long Island, areas that are used by large numbers of Atlantic Brant (*B. b. hrota*). A color photograph was published in *The Kingbird* (58(3):262).

**Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)**

**2008-5-A/B** One, Sunken Meadow State Park, Smithtown, **Suffolk,** 8 Jan (Sam Stuart, Brent Bomkamp; ph S. Stuart, B. Bomkamp)

**2008-87-A/B** One, St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, **Suffolk**, 29 Nov, 6, 14 Dec, 6, 15 Feb 2009 (Shaibal S. Mitra, Brendan Fogarty; ph S. Mitra, B. Fogarty)

Many, but not necessarily all, of the Barnacle Geese observed in NYS during the winter are likely to be of wild rather than captive origins. Neither of the 2008 birds showed physical signs of captivity, and both were from Long Island, an established wintering ground for Canada Geese nesting in Labrador and Greenland. The Sunken Meadow bird was discovered on 7 Jan by Sharon Brody, and the Farmingdale goose was found 29 Nov by Mike Cooper. NYSARC will continue to pay close attention to this species and detailed reports are encouraged.

**'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*)**

**2008-7-A** One, Massapequa Preserve, pond adjacent to Pittsburg Ave., **Nassau** 25 Feb, (Seymour Schiff; ph S. Schiff)

Careful scrutiny of male 'American' Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*) will occasional turn up a nominate Eurasian form (*crecca*) or a hybrid of the two. At

least three were reported from ponds on Long Island in early 2008, but details of only one of these were submitted. No hints of hybridization were evident from the description or photos. An individual was discovered at this locality by Jim Osterlund and party on 21 Jan and was apparently joined by a second bird on 12 Feb. At least one remained until 25 Feb, the date of this report.

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

**2008-83-A/B** One, Long Point State Park, **Cayuga,** 1-2 Nov (Shawn Billerman, Scott Whittle; ph S. Billerman, S. Whittle)

For the third year in row, a Pacific Loon was present on Cayuga Lake (see NYSARC 2006-4-A/D and NYSARC 2007-67-A). Likely a returning wintering bird, this year it was reported in early November from the vicinity of Aurora, mid-lake. A detailed description by Shawn Billerman and good photographs from Scott Whittle establish the identification and eliminate the similar Arctic Loon by virtue of head and bill shape, posture, and plumage, including the flank pattern and presence of a faint but discernable chin strap.

**Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)**

**2008-9-A/D** One, Raritan Bay, Lemon Creek Pier and Park, Staten Island, **Richmond,** 23-30 Mar (Joe Trezza, Doug Gochfeld, Scott Whittle, Seth Wollney; ph D. Gochfeld, S. Whittle)

Since at least 2002, Western Grebe has been reported annually in New York and New Jersey waters, ranging roughly from Deal, NJ to the Rockaways in Queens County, NY. It is unclear how many individuals are involved but the frequency of sightings suggests more than one. In 2008, four reports were received from late March in the vicinity of Lemon Creek Park in Staten Island. The bird was first identified at this location by Seth Wollney. Several identifiable photographs were included, and these as well as some of the written descriptions ruled out Clark's Grebe, which has been recorded a few times in the east but not so far in NYS.

**Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)**

**2008-94-A** One, Hudson Canyon, 60 miles off shore, **pelagic**, 21 Sep (Scott Whittle; ph S. Whittle)

This tropical shearwater hails from the Caribbean and follows the warm water eddies that spin off the Gulf Stream into NYS waters. This individual was photographed by Scott Whittle, who traveled aboard a tuna fishing boat to the Hudson Canyon.

**Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)**

**2008-70-A** One, Cold Brook Rd along Homer/Scott town line, **Cortland**, 25 May (Matthew A. Young)

Most Anhinga sightings in NYS have been brief or very distant, making it difficult for observers to discern the critical details needed to firmly exclude Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), which will sometimes soar in a similar manner. Fortunately, Matt Young was able to study this immature

Anhinga for at least 20 minutes as it soared over a forested ridge. Using both binoculars and a spotting scope, he was able to discern a variety of salient details including the buffy tips of the bird's massive fanned tail. The Anhinga flapped its wings only three times during this lengthy observation–a testament to the remarkable soaring powers of this southern waterbird. Although sightings are reported every few years, this is only the third accepted record for NYS. The date falls neatly between the two previous accepted records: 28 April 1992 (Central Park, New York Co., NYSARC 1992-40-A) and 10 June 1996 (Cornell University Ponds, Tompkins Co., NYSARC 1996-45-A). Likewise, of the 13 accepted records from New Jersey, nine were between late April and early June.

**Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)**

**2008-51-A** One, Mecox Bay to Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 7 Sep (Angus Wilson, Richard Guthrie; ph R. Guthrie)

**2008-56-A** One, Myers Park, Lansing, **Tompkins,** 21 Sep (Ryan Douglas, Shawn Billerman, ph R. Douglas, S. Billerman)

Most sightings of frigatebirds occur in the late summer and fall, especially during hurricane season when these gifted aerialists are swept northwards by fast moving weather systems. Tropical storm *Hanna* reached Long Island on the evening of 6 Sep 2008, having made landfall just south of the North/South Carolina border; then it moved north through Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey before swinging over Long Island as an extra tropical cyclone. In anticipation of displaced seabirds, many area birders positioned themselves at suitable vantage points along the south shore of Long Island. In general, the seabird counts were disappointing, the storm having largely dissipated; however an adult male Magnificent Frigatebird was found by Angus Wilson soaring over the northern end of Mecox Bay, midway along the South Fork. He was able to contact other birders by cell phone as the bird held station over the north end of the bay. News spread quickly and a number of birders reached Mecox in time to see the frigatebird begin to drift westward. A multi-vehicle chase ensued, reminiscent of the 1963 screwball comedy "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World", as the bird was followed through the Town of Southampton, across Shinnecock Bay and along Dune Road as far as the Moriches Inlet–a distance of 24 miles. A Magnificent Frigatebird was reported from Cape May, NJ, the following day; however it was described as a female, suggesting that a number of frigatebirds had been pushed into the area by this weather system. Frigatebird identification is notoriously difficult. In terms of plumage, male Ascension Frigatebird (*F. aquila*) is almost identical to Magnificent but differs in size, Ascension being smaller and shorter tailed. Given the track of the storm, however, Magnificent Frigatebird, which is common in the Gulf of Mexico, seemed the most likely species.

As if to echo the Long Island record, two weeks late a(nother) male Magnificent Frigatebird was spotted by Tom Johnson and Shawn Billerman soaring over Cayuga Lake in central NY (Johnson and Billerman 2009). Obviously, the species is much rarer away from the coast and this was the first record for Region 5. Again, quick phone calls brought many local observers to

the lake where the frigatebird lingered and eventually settled to roost. A crowd was on site before first light, hoping to see the bird leave the roost, but, to their disappointment, the branch was already empty when it became light enough to see. Tragically, Jeff Gerbracht spotted the corpse of the frigatebird lying below the roost tree and evidently the bird had died during the night. The specimen was salvaged, confirming it as a Magnificent Frigatebird and also revealing it to be severely emaciated. This suggests the bird had wandered inland for some days, unable to find sufficient food. The specimen is housed in the collection at the Cornell Museum of Vertebrates. Color photographs of both frigatebirds by Rich Guthrie and Tom Johnson were published in *The Kingbird* (59(1):53).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)**
**2008-55-A/B** One, Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, Clifton Park, **Saratoga**, 27 & 28 Aug (John Hershey, Ken Harper; ph J. Hershey, K. Harper)
This immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found by John Hershey in a remnant of the Erie Canal at Vischer Ferry in Saratoga County. The written report was supplemented with digiscoped pictures. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron occasionally wanders away from its normal haunts along the coast. NYSARC has accepted 15 previous records from upstate since 1979, most of these adults found from April to June. The NYSARC archives have one previous fall record of an immature bird upstate, in Dutchess County. It is possible that immatures are overlooked among Black-crowned Night-Herons since they are far less distinctive than adults.

**White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)**
**2008-44-A** One immature, Piermont Pier, Piermont, **Rockland**, 10 Aug (Alan W. Wells; ph A. Wells)
Observers Carol Weiss, Glenys Foster Roberts, Della Wells and Alan Wells first spotted this immature White Ibis as it flew over the baseball field at the base of the Pier and then viewed it again as it fed on the muddy edge of the Lower Sparkhill Creek. The ibis vanished as the tide rose and was not seen again. This is the first record for Rockland Co. This species remains rare in NYS, with the majority of records involving immatures. Prior to the Piermont bird, the most recent record is from 1990 (NYSARC 1990-28-A), although in the interim one or two additional sightings have been published but not submitted for NYSARC review. A pin-sharp color photograph by Alan Wells was published in *The Kingbird* (58(4):355).

**White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)**
**2008-46-A/B** One, East Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 16 & 19 Aug (Brendan Fogarty, Doug Gochfeld; ph B. Fogarty, D. Gochfeld)
This basic plumage bird was found on 16 Aug by Doug Gochfeld and others during a NYSOA Young Birders Club field trip to the refuge. It was seen several times subsequently until the 19th. Jamaica Bay remains the premiere spot for this western counterpart of the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), a reflection perhaps of the large numbers of ibis that use accessible portions of the

refuge to feed or bathe. White-faced Ibis has become increasingly regular, consistent with a general expansion. This is the 17th record for NYS.

**Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)**
**2008-53-A** One, vicinity of Hook Mt., **Rockland,** 8 Sep (Carol A. Weiss; sketch C. Weiss)
This kite was studied for 12-15 minutes from the hawkwatch as it circled over the slopes of Hook Mountain and Rockland Lake. Carol Weiss's report included a sketch, which is useful in situations where a photograph is not possible. Most records from New York and nearby states are from the spring, although the previous accepted record was in August 2007 (NYSARC 2007-79-A) from Monroe County.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)**
**2008-29-A** One, adult, Bashakill Preserve, **Sullivan**, 25 May (David Klauber; ph Arie Gilbert)
**2008-30-A/B** One, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, **Kings,** 18 May (Dale Dyer, Shane Blodgett)
**2008-40-A** One, Inwood Hill Park, **New York**, 25 May (Ken Allaire)
The bulk of Mississippi Kite records have occurred in the spring, and this year was no exception. The first individual was glimpsed by observers in Prospect Park who viewed the kite through a gap in the woodland canopy. Expecting a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) or Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), they quickly realized this was in fact a kite. Of interest, a kite was observed on the same day from the hawkwatch at Sandy Hook, NJ, about 15 miles due south of Prospect Park. The adult (or near adult) female at Bashakill was first seen by Dave Klauber and party as it soared over the ridge to the northeast of the main parking lot on Haven Road (see Klauber 2008 for details). It was then seen again an hour later and was studied carefully by telescope. A number of additional birders were reached by cell phone and were able to get on the bird before it disappeared towards the southeast. Almost simultaneously, Ken Allaire found a first-year bird at Inwood Park at the northern tip of Manhattan. This young kite was first seen in flight and then perched in a tall tree. Remarkably, a third individual, another adult, was reported from Derby Hill on the same day (see KB (58(3):273) but unfortunately a report on this bird was not received. A color photograph of the Bashakill kite taken by Peter Post was published in *The Kingbird* (58(3):262).

**Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)**
**2008-52-A** One, Jones Beach, **Nassau**, 7 Sep (Joseph O'Sullivan)
This Wilson's Plover was studied with a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris semipalmatus*) and Sanderlings (*Calidris alba* ) as the birds were sheltered from the wind in a depression in the oceanside dunes. Although the majority of sightings are from the spring and early summer (24 Apr-11 July), a few have been in the fall. For example, there are specimen records from

September: Mecox Bay, Suffolk, 17 Sep 1932 and Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, 19 Sep 1954.

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)**
**2008-2-A** Two, Hook Pond, East Hampton, **Suffolk,** 14 Mar (Karen Rubinstein)
**2008-27-A** One, West Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens,** 30 June (Brendan Fogarty, ph B. Fogarty)
The East Hampton Black-necked Stilts were discovered in the late afternoon by Karen Rubinstein as they fed in a muddy area on the edge of the pond where phragmites and other vegetation had been recently cleared. As often happens, they were gone the next morning. This is the earliest occurrence on record for NY. Most sightings have been in mid-to-late May, with the previous earliest date being 10 Apr. The West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is the top spot for the species in NYS, and this pattern continued with the discovery of a lone stilt there in mid-summer.

**Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)**
**2008-20-A** One, edge of Lake Champlain, between Little and Great Chazy Rivers, Town of Champlain, **Clinton,** 17 & 21 May (William Krueger)
**2008-22-A** Two, Branche Rd., Cape Vincent, **Jefferson,** 18 May (David W. Prosser; ph Jerry LeTendre)
This prairie nesting species migrates to the Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf coasts during the non-breeding months and in NYS is generally encountered in the late summer and early fall. These two reports relate to a small influx of Marbled Godwits into northern NYS and Quebec during mid-May. The Lake Champlain bird was studied as it fed on exposed mud and emergent vegetation along the lake margin. The other two birds frequented a small farm pond in an open pasture and the report included photographs taken by Jerry LeTendre.

**Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)**
**2008-42-A/D** One, East Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 1-4 Aug (Brendan Fogarty, Ed Coyle, Robert J. Kurtz, Doug Gochfeld; ph B. Fogarty, E. Coyle, D. Gochfeld)
This Red-necked Stint was found by Doug Gochfeld on the muddy margins of the East Pond. An adult, it retained much of its alternate plumage and was enjoyed by many during its four-day stay. This is the fifth record for NYS. There are two prior records from Jamaica Bay: 27-28 July & 11 Aug 1985 (NYSARC 1985-20-A/B) and 8-30 July 1994 (NYSARC 1994-33-A/C). A color photograph by Ed Coyle was published in *The Kingbird* (58(4):355).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)**
**2008-43-A/E** One, East Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 3-4 Aug (Brendan Fogarty, Ed Coyle, Phil Jeffery, Doug Gochfeld, Robert J. Kurtz; ph B. Fogarty, E. Coyle, D. Gochfeld)
This adult Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was first spotted by Phil Jeffrey at 6:40 AM in the northwest corner of this large, drawn down brackish pond. He immediately

recognized it as something significant and was able to get another birder onto it briefly before it flew further down. About an hour later the sandpiper was relocated by Bob Kurtz and party and its identity firmly established. The well-defined chestnut cap and dense barring on the breast and flanks helped differentiate it from Pectoral Sandpiper (*C. melanomas*), of which several were on hand for side-by-side comparison. The bird continued on the pond for one additional day before disappearing overnight with a cold front. This represents the third accepted record for NYS. The first was also from the East Pond (18-24 Jul 1981, NYSARC 1981-12-A) and like the 2008 sighting involved an adult. Another adult was reported from the East Pond on 16 July 1983 (NYSARC 1983-16-A), but unfortunately insufficient details were provided to adequately document a rarity of this magnitude. Birders had to wait until 10 Oct 2002 for the next confirmed sighting, when a juvenile was viewed and extensively photographed at the south end of Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co. (NYSARC 2002-38-A/E). A color photograph of the 2008 adult taken by Ed Coyle was published in *The Kingbird* (58(4):355).

**South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)**
**2008-66-A** One, pelagic (39° 54' .914"N, 71° 41' 49"W, 75.6 miles SSE of Shinnecock Inlet, **Suffolk),** 17 Jul (John Shemilt; ph and map J. Shemilt)
**2008-67-A** One, pelagic (39° 50' 23"N, 71° 44' 46"W, 79 miles SSE of Shinnecock Inlet, **Suffolk),** 7 Aug (John Shemilt; ph J. Shemilt)
The deep waters of the continental shelf edge remain one of the least studied habitats in NYS. Birders make only a handful of visits each year, either aboard an organized pelagic trip or a fishing boat in search of tuna or sailfish. Using his own vessel, John Shemilt was able to explore a productive area known as The Dip on a number of occasions during the summer of 2008. On two of these trips he managed to photograph South Polar Skuas.

**Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)**
**2008-73-A** One, Montauk Point, Long Island, **Suffolk,** 16 Nov (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)
There has been steady decline in Franklin's Gull reports over the past two decades. Historically, the preponderance of records has come from western NY, and the species has always been extremely rare on Long Island. The report from Angus Wilson gives a careful analysis of a first-basic Franklin's Gull that was spotted among a large number of Laughing Gulls (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) passing in front of Montauk Point on the changing tide. The photos show the dark hood wrapping around the eyes and back of the head, well-defined white eye crescents, and characteristic white nape separating the hood from the gray mantle.

**Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)**
**2008-64-A** One third basic, Niagara River, Adam Beck overlook, Lewiston, **Niagara,** 6 Dec (Willie D'Anna; ph Jean Iron)
A number of New York and Ontario birders studied this Mew Gull from the

Adam Beck overlook on the Canadian side of the Niagara River. Gulls here typically swirl around the area between the Adam Beck Power Station on the Canadian side and the Robert Moses Power Station on the U.S. side, crossing between Ontario and New York waters. Willie D'Anna's written report, supplemented by a photograph by Jean Iron, documented the identification as Mew Gull, but the level of detail the observers were able to obtain wasn't sufficient to establish which subspecies was involved.

**California Gull (*Larus californicus*)**

**2008-74-A/C** One adult, east side Cayuga Lake, Aurora, **Cayuga,** 1-4 Nov (Thomas Brodie Johnson, Mark Chao, Shawn Billerman; ph T. Johnson, M. Chao, S. Billerman)

**2008-78-A/B** One second basic, Niagara River, Adam Beck overlook, Lewiston, **Niagara**, 23 & 30 Nov, 6 Dec (James Pawlicki, Willie D'Anna; ph Jean Iron)

Rigorous study of the gulls wintering on the Niagara River by D'Anna and others has found California Gull to be close to annual in recent years, and the trend continues. The second-basic gull found by Jim Pawlicki and Willie D'Anna in late Nov was last reported on 7 Dec. On 1 Nov, Tom Johnson, Ann Mitchell, Chris Wiley and Shawn Billerman were checking the gulls gathered at the outflow of the Paines Creek into Aurora Bay on the eastern shore of Cayuga Lake when Johnson picked out this adult California Gull standing with American Herring (*L. smithsonianus*) and Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) Gulls. The gull returned to the creek mouth for the next three days and was seen by many local birders. It is the first record for Region 3 and one of only a handful away from the Niagara River; see Johnson 2009 for more details A color photograph of the Aurora bird by Kevin McGowan was published in *The Kingbird* (59(1):53).

**Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)**

**2008-1-A/G** One, Stevenson Road compost piles & Stewart Park, Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, **Tompkins**, 16 Jan–1 Feb (Anne Marie Johnson, Ryan Douglas, William W. Watson, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Alison Van Keuren, Doug Gochfeld, Shawn Billerman; ph A. Johnson, R. Douglas, A. Van Keuren, D. Gochfeld, S. Billerman)

This 3rd-cycle Slaty-backed Gull was found by Jay McGowan and during its two week stay afforded excellent views, sometimes appearing alongside a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*). Interestingly, an adult or near-adult Slaty-backed Gull was found on the Ithaca compost piles on 21 Dec of the following winter and might conceivably be the same bird. Unfortunately a report on this latter bird was not received.

**Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)**

**2008-4-A/C** One adult, Niagara River near Goat Island, Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 27-30 Jan (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna, Shawn Billerman; ph W. D'Anna)

This handsome adult was found at 2:00 pm on 27 Dec by Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, Jean Iron and Kevin McLaughlin. The observers were viewing the river near the control gates from the Canadian side when D'Anna noticed a small gull on the ice at some considerable distance. Wishing for better views, D'Anna and Potter drove to Goat Island, where they managed to relocate it. Unfortunately it promptly disappeared and was not resighted until the following day, but it remained until 1 Feb, allowing a number of observers to catch up with this classic 'must see' bird. Although the identification was firmly established by the photographs provided, the Committee appreciated the fact that all three reports included careful descriptions. This is the third record for the Niagara River. See D'Anna 2008 for a full account. Two color photos taken by Michael Harvey on 30 Jan were published in *The Kingbird* (58(2):153) and a photograph by Willie D'Anna appeared in *North American Birds* (62(2):224).

**Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)**

**2008-23-A** Two adults, Cupsogue County Park, near Moriches Inlet, **Suffolk,** 8 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)

**2008-24-A** One, first summer, Cupsogue County Park, near Moriches Inlet, **Suffolk,** 12 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

**2008-38-A** Two, one male, one female, Cupsogue County Park, near Moriches Inlet, **Suffolk,** 29 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

The sand flats just inside the Moriches Inlet remain the premiere spot in NYS for rare terns. Repeated visits by Shai Mitra and company during June and July resulted in the documentation of five Sandwich Terns and at least ten Arctic Terns (see below). The season began with the discovery of two adult Sandwich Terns by Andy Baldelli, who kept the birds in sight until Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay were able to join him. One was in alternate plumage and wore a USFWS band on the right leg, and the other was in basic plumage and was unbanded. Color photos of all Sandwich Terns taken by Shai Mitra were published in *The Kingbird* (58(4):358).

**Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)**

**2008-25-A** One, 1st-summer, Cupsogue County Park, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 14 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

**2008-31-A** One, 1st-summer, Cupsogue County Park, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 21 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

**2008-32-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 21 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

**2008-34-A** One, adult/near-adult, Cupsogue County Park, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 11 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

**2008-35-A** One, mud flat north of Cupsogue County Park, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 21 Jul (Seth Ausubel)

**2008-36-A** One, 2nd-summer, Pikes Beach, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 12 Jul (Seth Ausubel; ph S. Ausubel)

**2008-37-A** One, 1st-summer, Pikes Beach, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk,** 20 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

**2008-98-A** One, adult/near-adult, Cupsogue County Park, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 8 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)
**2008-99-A** One, 1st-summer, Cupsogue County Park, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 27 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph. S. Mitra)
**2008-100-A** One, 1st-summer, Pikes Beach, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 13 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)
A series of ten Arctic Terns was documented on the exposed sandflats at Cupsogue County Park and nearby Pikes Beach during June and July. In addition to Shai Mitra, finders included Tom Burke, Patricia Lindsay and Seth Ausubel. This area is a short distance inside the mouth of the Moriches Inlet. Each individual was carefully described, tentatively aged by plumage, and photographed. For the most part, this was sufficient to establish that different individuals were involved, even on consecutive days. See Mitra 2009 for a full account. Color photographs by Shai Mitra illustrating two of the 2008 birds were published in *The Kingbird* (59(1):58).

**Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)**
**2008-97-A** Forty-nine, pelagic (from 10-25 miles SW of Jones Inlet, **Nassau**), 3 Feb (Scott Whittle; ph S. Whittle)
This record count of Common Murres was made during a pelagic organized by Paul Guris (See Life Paulagics) aboard the *Capt. Lou VII* out of Freeport. In recent years, alcids have become more common in the inshore waters around Long Island. Previous trips to this area at the same time of year have also turned up multiple Common Murres, suggesting this might be a consistent phenomenon.

**Razorbill (*Alca torda*)**
**2008-88-A** One, Lake Ontario off Irondequoit Bay, **Monroe**, 14 Dec (Dominic Sherony; ph Jessie Barry)
This first-basic Razorbill was found by Mike Tetlow on the west side of the inlet during the Rochester Christmas Bird Count and many count participants were able to see it. The species remains a major rarity away from saltwater.

**Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)**
**2008-93-A** Two, pelagic (40 and 60 miles SW of Jones Inlet, **Nassau**), 3 Feb (Scott Whittle; ph S. Whittle)
These puffins were photographed during a See Life Paulagics offshore trip. One individual was a first-year and the other an adult. It is likely that Atlantic Puffins are fairly numerous in offshore waters during the winter and spring but are rarely documented because so few birders manage to get into suitable areas at the appropriate times of year.

**Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas faciata)***
**2008-101-A** One, Artist Lake, Brookhaven, **Suffolk**, 14 Nov-11 Dec (Michael Scope; ph M. Scope)
This Band-tailed Pigeon made daily visits to a feeder behind an apartment

complex close to the kettle hole pond known as Artist Lake. It typically spent several hours at the feeder in the late morning and early afternoon before disappearing for the rest of the day. Unfortunately, other birders were unaware of this remarkable sighting during its month-long stay, and it only came to light when eBird reviewer Andrew Farnsworth received diagnostic color photos from the observer Michael Scope in June of the following year. The photos show a snowy scene with the pigeon perched on a platform feeder. By chance, a parked vehicle with a NYS license plate is clearly visible behind in one of the images. The bicolored bill, double neck collar and other features clearly established the identification and ruled out other pigeons including domestic forms. This represents the first record of Band-tailed Pigeon for New York. Considered long overdue, the species has been recorded in New Jersey (Stokes SF, Sep 1980; West Cape May, Jan 2007), New Brunswick (Machias Seal Island, 1974), New Hampshire (Conway, Mar 1991), Massachusetts (Brookline May-June 1995), Maine, Pennsylvania and Ontario (at least five records, Port Hope, 1970; Dorion, 1978, Long Point, Rondeau, London, Nov-Dec 2003). A relatively widespread New World species, Band-tailed Pigeons are found in montane forests of western North America and the highlands of central Mexico, continuing south into Central and South America. The North American coastal population breeds from central California north into Canada and Alaska, moving into Baja California during the colder months. In the interior, a migratory population breeds in upland areas of southern Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico and is perhaps the most likely source of vagrants to the east.

**Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)**

**2008-79-A/I** One, Clark Rd, Peru, **Clinton**, 18 Dec-5 Mar 2009 (Dana C. Rohleder, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Neal Reilly, Brendan Fogarty, John M. C. Peterson, Ken McDermott, Donna Gooley, Will Raup; ph D. Bosler, B. Fogarty, Curt McDermott, D. Gooley, W. Raup)

**2008-82-A** One, Potsdam, **St. Lawrence,** 29 Dec & 1 Jan 2009 (Jeff Bolsinger; ph J. Bolsinger)

The Peru Hawk Owl, the second Clinton Co. record, was seen by a large number of observers during its seven week stay and reported almost daily on the internet. It was discovered on 14 Dec by John Brown and Judith Heintz during the Plattsburgh Christmas Bird Count. The Potsdam Hawk Owl was discovered by MaryBeth Warburton on 29 Dec in a swampy area close to the shopping plaza on Rt. 11. It continued into the New Year and on 21 Jan 2009 was captured and banded by Mark Manske, who deemed it to be a first-basic female. The last reported sighting of the owl was 2 Feb 2009.

**Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)**

**2008-15-A** One, Smith Rd, Potsdam, **St. Lawrence**, 24 Mar (Jeff Bolsinger; ph J. Bolsinger)

This spectacular owl was studied by Jeff Bolsinger and several others as it perched on a bird feeder a short distance from the living room window of a house in Potsdam. American Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) fed on the snowy

ground below the feeder, seemingly unconcerned by the owl, which was activately hunting voles instead. The owl remained until 27 Mar. A color photograph by Jeff Bolsinger was published in *The Kingbird* (58(3):259).

**Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)**
**2008-28-A** One, Mahoney Rd, Brasher Falls, **St. Lawrence,** 3 Mar (Karla Young; ph Dave Rockwood)
This Boreal Owl was seen several times in the week prior to 3 Mar when it was found roosting in the open on some farm equipment and allowed itself to be photographed at close range.

**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)**
**2008-68-A/B** One adult male, private residence, West Nyack, **Rockland**, 24, 26, 27 Sep (Alan W. Wells, Beverly Simone; ph A. Wells)
**2008-96-A** One, Woodhull Place, Northport, **Suffolk**, 9 Nov (Scott Whittle; ph S. Whittle)
The hummingbird in West Nyack was a full adult male, nicely photographed during its visit to a private feeder. The Northport hummingbird visited sugar feeders maintained by Norm Klein and stayed until 11 Nov. In the winter of 2006/07, a similar female, nicknamed 'Ilsa', established a territory in Norm's yard, staying for just over two months (NYSARC 2006-59-A).

**Say's Phoebe (*Savories saya*)**
**2008-63-A** One, Batavia Water Treatment Plant, **Genesee**, 22 Oct (Brad Carlson)
Brad Carlson and Bill Carlson stumbled upon this Say's Phoebe during a visit to the water treatment plant ponds, but unfortunately it disappeared within 20 minutes of discovery. This is the first record for Region 1.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)**
**2008-41-A/B** One adult male, Rockefeller Rd, Moravia, **Cayuga,** 18 Nov (Shawn Billerman, Bill Purcell; ph S. Billerman, B. Purcell)
**2008-45-A/C** One adult, Galeville Park, Shawangunk Grasslands, **Ulster**, 15-17 Aug (Gene Mcgarry, Richard Guthrie, Alison Van Keuren; ph Peter Schoenberger, R. Guthrie A. Van Keuren)
Gene and Jeffrey Ward found and identified the Moravia flycatcher in a scrubby field on the east side of Owasco Lake. They forwarded photographs to Kevin McGowan at Cornell, and a number of observers were able to see the bird before it likely succumbed to harsh conditions. The richness of the salmon color of the breast and the tail length indicate a male. Several digiscoped photographs supported the description. There are comparatively fewer sightings of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the fall compared to the spring and the majority of records are from the coastal areas, which makes this sighting particularly unusual. Earlier in the year, an adult was found by Gene Mcgarry at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR (former Galeville Airport) in Ulster County, where it lingered for two more days.

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**
**2008-61-A** One, West Gilgo Beach, **Suffolk**, 18 Nov (Shaibal S. Mitra)
**2008-71-A** Six, Fair Haven State Park, **Cayuga**, 11 Nov (Bill Purcell; ph B. Purcell)
**2008-80-A** Fourteen to twenty-two, Lake Ontario shore, Wilson, **Niagara,** 3 Nov (Willlie D'Anna)
**2008-95-A** Two, Jones Beach West End, **Nassau**, 11 Nov (Scott Whittle, ph S. Whittle)
**2008-102-A** Eight, Breezy Point, **Queens,** 11 Nov (Doug Gochfeld)
Cave Swallows once again staged their now annual late fall incursion into the state, with sightings from both the south shore of Lake Ontario and the barrier beaches on the southern coast of Long Island. These areas are, broadly speaking, the most reliable locations for the species. This year's reports ranged in date from November 3 to 18, consistent with the overall pattern from prior years–23 of the 26 separate accepted reports through 2008 (many of multiple individuals) are from mid-October to mid-December. Given the well-established pattern of occurrence during this period for Cave Swallows in New York, and the Northeast in general, NYSARC will no longer review records from mid-October through December. Cave Swallow remains on the review list for any dates outside this limited range.

**Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)**
**2008-72-A/C** One, Lowville, **Lewis,** 15 Oct (Bill Purcell, Jeff Bolsinger, Scott Whittle; ph B. Purcell, J. Bolsinger, S. Whittle)
This female or immature male Northern Wheatear was found by Tom Magarian in front of the farmhouse he was renting. He got the word out immediately, and a number of birders were able to reach this relatively remote spot in time to watch the wheatear hunting insects from atop piles of cut wood, fence posts, stones and other vantage points. Scott Whittle traveled the furthest, having rushed from Brooklyn as soon as he heard the news. As is often the case, the Northern Wheatear was gone by the next morning. This represents the first record for Lewis County and Region 7.

**Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)**
**2008-6-A** One, Thompson Lake Road, near Thompson Lake State Park, **Albany**, 20 Feb (Richard Guthrie)
This Townsend's Solitaire was studied by Rich Guthrie, Jory Langner and LeRoy Suess for about 10 minutes as it fed on wild grapes growing among sumacs in a brushy field. It was not seen subsequently.

**"Yellow" Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis/flava*)**
**2008-85-A** One, Plum Beach, Brooklyn, **Kings,** 7 Sep (Doug Gochfeld; ph D. Gochfeld)
Shortly after sunrise on 7 Sep 2008, the observer Doug Gochfeld began checking the edge of the salt marsh at Plum Beach. At about 7:20 AM he spotted

a pipit-like bird flying low over the vegetation. It gave an unfamiliar call that did not register as an American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) or a Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). The bird continued over the dunes and dropped down out of sight. Making his way over to that area, Gochfeld unintentionally flushed the bird but fortunately it landed on the edge of a muddy pool. He had the foresight to put his scope on the bird right away and snatch a few photos with a digital camera. Knowing this was not a familiar species, he checked his field guide and soon came to the realization that it was most likely a wagtail and used a cell phone to call Shai Mitra and Shane Blodgett. After about 15 minutes the wagtail took flight and headed out over the water in a southerly direction towards Fort Tilden and Breezy Point, but a limited search could not relocate it.

Gochfeld's detailed report was accompanied with photographs and these clearly showed a wagtail. Committee discussion centered on (i) the ramifications of the 2004 AOU split of Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*M. tschutschensis)* from the Yellow Wagtail (*M. flava)* which breeds in northwest Europe, and (ii) the apparent discrepancy between the photos and the observer's written description in terms of the color of the throat, breast and belly. Accurate recording of the underpart coloration, specifically the extent of yellow wash, is a major component of the identification. The Committee concluded that this uncertainty was likely due to a combination of the properties of the point and shoot digital camera used to take the photographs through a telescope, the early morning light and vegetation that partly obscured the bird. In its deliberations, the Committee reviewed proposed criteria for separating Eastern Yellow Wagtail from the very similar western European forms and discussed the value of further expert review or study of museum skins. The observer's recollection of the call notes was also discussed. Given that no firm criteria for the identification of immature 'Yellow' Wagtails have been established, the Committee concluded by a 7-0 vote that the bird should be best recorded as a 'Yellow' Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis/flava).* This is the first accepted record of any wagtail for NYS and is likely the first documented example of a 'Yellow' Wagtail of any kind from eastern North America. A color photograph by Doug Gochfeld was published in *The Kingbird* (59(1):51).

**Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus)***

**2008-59-A** One, Prospect Hill Road, Horseheads, **Chemung**, 30 Oct (Michael Powers)

Although Blue-winged Warblers are widespread breeders across NYS, they quickly disappear in late summer. This late October date is very unusual away from the coast.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)**

**2008-57-A** One, Central Park, **New York**, 21 Sep (Lloyd Spitalnik; ph L. Spitalnik)

This attractive western wood warbler was discovered by David Speiser and seen by a number of observers able to get to the park in time. Based on the photographs, Peter Pyle concluded that this was an adult male. This is the 14th

record for NYS. Eight of the previous records have occurred in the fall and winter (Sep-Dec).

**Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)**
**2008-18-A** One male, Woodland Dr, Salt Point, **Dutchess**, 10 May (Robert Bowler)
**2008-75-A** One male, Sullivan Street, Wurstsboro, **Sullivan**, 29 Apr (John H. Haas, ph Renee Davis)
**2008-89-A** One, Hoyt Lake, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, **Erie**, 11 Dec (Darrell Stevens, ph D. Stevens)
Apart from nearly annual early spring overshoots and a few breeding period records from Long Island, Summer Tanager has a generally bimodal distribution in NYS. The majority of records occur during spring migration, from mid-May to early June, with a second much smaller peak in late November and December. Because it is of regular occurrence downstate during spring migration, the species is only on the review list for upstate. This year's upstate records follow the overall pattern, with spring records in Sullivan and Dutchess Counties and a mid-December record in Erie County. These are the 12th–14th records from upstate accepted by NYSARC since 1981. Although the provenance of the late fall birds is unknown, their arrival during the same general period as southwestern species such as Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) and Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fluva*) suggests that some or all originate from southwestern North America.

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**
**2008-90-A** One, Central Park, Manhattan, **New York**, 27 March (Scott Whittle, ph S. Whittle)
Many Central Park birders got a chance to see this tanager during its three-week stay but only one report reached the Committee. The bird was discovered by Matt Pelikan on 26 March and reported almost daily until 12 April. The bird fed on a number of occasions from fresh sap wells drilled by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Plumage wear suggests a second-year, but sexing at this time of year is difficult. Most coastal records have occurred in the fall and winter (October to January) or in May, with a couple of over-wintering individuals that lingered to the beginning of April (Bull 1964). The late March discovery of the Central Park bird suggests that it over-wintered somewhere in the eastern US.

**Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)**
**2008-77-A/B** One female or immature male, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 18-19 Sep (Douglas J. Futuyma, Brendan Fogarty; ph B. Fogarty)
Judged to be either a female or immature male, this Lark Bunting was discovered by Doug Futuyma on 16 Sep and remained in the area until 21 Sep, during which time it was seen by many. This is the first occurrence on Long Island since 9 Sep 1992 (NYSARC 1992-25-A).

**Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)**
**2008-60-A/D** One, Plum Beach, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 8 Oct (Doug Gochfeld, Arie Gilbert, Seymour Schiff, Scott Whittle; ph D. Gochfeld, A. Gilbert, S. Schiff, S. Whittle)
This LeConte's Sparrow was found by Doug Gochfeld in dune grass at Plum Beach in Brooklyn. Rapid dissemination of the information allowed many observers to see this normally skulking species over the course of its two-day stay. Four reports were submitted, all with excellent photographs, and observers carefully described the bird and eliminated similar species, notably Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*). This is the eleventh record accepted by NYSARC. Interestingly, the most recent prior record was just under a year earlier about 1.5 miles away, at Fort Tilden, Queens (NYSARC 2007-72-A) and there are several documented sightings from Sandy Hook, NJ, suggesting that migrants pass down the Hudson River.

**Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)**
**2008-19-A** One, Woodlawn Beach State Park, Hamburg, **Erie**, 11-14 May (Gerald S. Lazarczyk, James Pawlicki, Michael Morgante, Willie D'Anna, Gerry Rising; ph W. D'Anna)
This immature male was discovered on 10 May by David Wheeler. Although regular on Long Island, the species remains rare upstate, and this well-documented immature male marks the first record accepted by NYSARC from Region 1. Woodlawn Beach State Park is along the shoreline of Lake Erie, a few miles south of Buffalo. The misidentification of Indigo Buntings (*P. cyanea*) as Blue Grosbeaks is a common mistake made in the spring, even by experienced birders. For this reason, the committee appreciates strong documentation for this species, especially reports with photos and multiple reports, if possible.

**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)**
**2008-76-A** One female, Oxford Ct, Cedarhurst, **Nassau**, 6 May (Cindy Wodinsky; ph C. Wodinsky)
A combination of alertness, diligence, and experience allowed this birder to carefully identify and photograph the nondescript female-type Painted Bunting that visited her feeding station so briefly. After her first observation, she suspected this species and decided to wait for its return, camera in hand. Her diligence finally paid off after two hours with another very brief visit. It was enough for her to snap several excellent photos, firmly documenting this rare southern finch.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird *(Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus)***
**2008-12-A** One adult male, Fiddlehead Lane, New Scotland, **Albany**, 28 Mar (Alvin Breisch)
**2008-48-A** One, Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 22-24 Sep (Victoria Bustamante; ph V. Bustamante)
**2008-58-A** One adult male, Anthony Beach Road, Torrey, **Yates**, 21 Dec (Glenn

Groet)
Since being added back to the review list in 2003, NYSARC has received about one report a year, so the three reports from 2008 are above average. The reports from New Scotland and Torrey both described adult males visiting feeders. The Montauk bird was a female-type found and photographed by Victoria Bustamante in a mixed flock of icterids and European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at the Deep Hollow Ranch, a hotspot for vagrants on the east end of Long Island.

## 2008 Reports Accepted But Origins Uncertain or Unnatural

**Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)**
**2008-13-A** One adult, Wallkill River NWR, Oil City Rd near Pine Island, **Orange**, 16 Apr (Ken McDermott; ph Curt McDermott, Ken Kijewski)
Trumpeter Swan continues to increase in NYS, but sightings are still unusual outside the core areas (mainly Jefferson and Wayne Counties), so this report from the Wallkill River NWR in Orange County is noteworthy. The detailed report from Ken McDermott carefully ruled out other swans and was supplemented by a series of excellent photographs from Curt McDermott and Ken Kijewski. A review of the species' history and its current status in New York was published in *The Kingbird* in 2007 (Sherony & Bolsinger 2007). Although this long-lived species now breeds annually in the state, it is difficult to determine how many of the sightings refer to originally escaped birds, or their offspring, or whether any individuals originate from reintroduction programs in Ontario, Michigan, or other mid-western states. The Committee welcomes additional reports, particularly of tagged birds that may possibly be traced to determine origin.

**Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)**
**2008-8-A** One adult, Upper Lisle Park, Whitney Point, **Broome**, 3 Apr (Robert Grosek; ph R. Grosek)
Waterfowl present a perennial problem for records committees because of their popularity with collectors. This individual was observed at close range and photographed. Details were sufficient to rule out juvenile Cape Shelduck (*T. cana*), which also lacks the whitish head of Ruddy Shelduck. Some members were troubled by the fact that the report did not specifically address the question of an escape. Was it banded? Could it fly? These concerns aside, the Committee acknowledges that Ruddy Shelduck is a candidate for vagrancy to North America. The species is found throughout central Asia and many populations are migratory. Historically, there is precedent for irruptions well out of the normal range, with birds reaching western Europe including the British Isles, Iceland and even Greenland. That said, a westward irruption has not been documented in recent years, although the picture has become greatly confused by a burgeoning feral population in the Netherlands and southern England. From a North

American standpoint, the most provocative sighting is that of six birds that were photographed by a research team working in the Canadian arctic (Allard *et al.* 2001). Despite this remarkable record, the AOU has not added Ruddy Shelduck to the North American Checklist, citing lingering concerns of unnatural origins. Indeed, two or more Ruddy Shelducks have been observed on many occasions within NYS under circumstances that seem unlikely for natural vagrants.

**Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*)**
**2008-14-A** One, E 7th St & Church Ave, Kensington, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 16 Apr (Miabi Chatterji; ph M. Chatterji)
This unbanded bird was only five to ten feet away from the observer, walking on a Brooklyn sidewalk. The identification is not in question but the provenance is highly suspect. The extreme tameness is very unlike that of a wild bird. Chukar is a Eurasian species that has been introduced and established in parts of the western US and Canada. It is essentially non-migratory and so is a highly unlikely candidate for natural vagrancy to the east. Chukars are occasionally released by hunting groups and hunting dog-trainers, but this is hard to reconcile with this sighting from an urban area. The origin of this bird, while certainly unnatural, remains a mystery.

**Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)**
**2008-47-A/B** One, Allenhurst Rd, Amherst, **Erie**, 21-22 Aug (Gerald Rising, Gerald S. Lazarczyk; ph G. Rising, G. Lazarczyk)
This attractive dove was initially identified by the homeowner Carole Levine when it came to feeders a week earlier. The report by Gerry Rising included definitive photographs. Spotted Dove is a wide spread Asian species introduced into California, where it is established. Given that there are no other established populations in North America, that the species is not known to wander, and is widely available for purchase, the Committee felt this individual was most likely a local escapee.

**European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)**
**2008-84-A** One, Alley Pond Park, **Queens**, 23 Dec (Jean Loscalzo)
This European Robin was first identified by Eric Miller. Some unnamed observers had seen the bird earlier. Northern populations of European Robin are considered short-distance migrants. However, there are upwards of 900 records from Iceland, indicating a reasonable but unfulfilled potential to reach North America. Surprisingly, this insectivorous species is widely advertised for sale, opening the possibility of an escape.

## 2007 Report Accepted

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**
**2007-81-A** One, Hither Hills State Park, west of Montauk, **Suffolk,** 23 Nov (Angus Wilson)

This Cave Swallow was seen flying westwards along the beach front on a crisp November morning, following a night of steady northwest winds. Later that day, Shane Blodgett and Doug Gochfeld found three or four Cave Swallows going to roost at Mecox Inlet, 19 miles to the west of Hither Hills (NYSARC 2007-73-A), and it is conceivable that this bird was among them.

## 2006 Report Accepted

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**
**2006-77-A** One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 10 Jul (Doug Gochfeld; ph D. Gochfeld)
This black-and-white male Ruff, molting out of breeding plumage, was found by Shane Blodgett at Jamaica Bay. Doug Gochfeld submitted this report including several photographs documenting the sighting. It was early in the fall shorebird season at Jamaica Bay, so water levels were high, but despite this the bird remained to at least 20 July. In the past Ruff occurred annually in NYS, primarily along the coast, but reports have decreased substantially in recent years. Since 2001, NYSARC has accepted three records: Suffolk County, 23 Sep 2001 (NYSARC 2001-84-A); Seneca County, 7 May 2004 (NYSARC 2004-16-A); and Madison County, 25 Aug 2007 (NYSARC 2007-70-A).

## 2006 Report Accepted But Origins Uncertain or Unnatural

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)**
**2006-78-A** One, Camman's Pond, Merrick, **Nassau**, 30 Oct (Seymour Schiff; ph S. Schiff)
This Black-bellied Whistling-Duck spent several weeks on a suburban duck pond where local people frequently feed the waterfowl. As a consequence many birds become quite tame, even those of almost certain wild origins. The color photograph submitted with the report clearly showed the bird to be unbanded and to have at least one of its hind toes, but the condition of its wings was not discussed. Although these attributes are consistent with a wild bird, concerns about the natural origins remain. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are very popular with waterfowl collectors and a single escape or deliberate release is hard to rule out.

## 1999 Report Accepted

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**
**1999-83-A/B** One, Leslie Rd, Cutchogue, **Suffolk,** 28 Aug (Paul Gillen, Jr., Anthony J. Lauro)

Paul Gillen found this male Ruff, retaining remnants of breeding plumage, in a flooded sod field in Cutchogue. Tony Lauro was able to arrive at the scene shortly thereafter. Both reports included relevant details on the identification and a sketch from Gillen.

## 2008 Reports Not Accepted

**Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)**
**2008-11-A** One, Lake Ontario Shore Rd (Route 3), Henderson, **Jefferson,** 30 Mar
This report described two large birds that were seen flying inland from Lake Ontario. The observer considered the silhouette to be similar to that of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) but larger. One bird hovered briefly and both were described as having a magpie-like black and white chest. The Committee was unsure of the correct identification but felt that shape and behavior of the birds were inconsistent with any frigatebird species. Although this marine species is capable of wandering far inland, as exemplified by the individual found over Cayuga Lake later in the year, the early spring date would be exceptionally early.

**Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)**
**2008-54-A** One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 24 Oct
This large falcon was seen flying west over the dunes at Robert Moses State Park. Due to lighting conditions, the observer was not able to see details of the plumage, and the identification was made primarily on indirect comparison of size relative to Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). The date is early for Gyrfalcon, although not unprecedented for the Northeast. The Committee felt that a large female Peregrine Falcon, or large falcon hybrids, could not be ruled out based on the information provided.

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)**
**2008-50-A/B** One, Gilbert Brook Marina, Chazy, **Clinton**, 16 Sep
This shorebird was seen on the edge of Lake Champlain in the company of single Pectoral (*C. melanotos*) and Least (*C. minutilla*) Sandpipers. The two reports were consistent in their descriptions and several field marks supported the identification. However, neither report commented on the age of the bird nor could this be unambiguously discerned from the descriptions. As a result Committee members were split on whether this bird was a basic plumaged adult or a juvenile. Ageing is an important step when identifying any shorebird, especially one as rare as this species. Furthermore, some aspects of the description were not consistent with Curlew Sandpiper in either plumage, for example "traces of barring towards the rear" and neither report explicitly compared the bird to the two other shorebirds present, making it difficult to gauge the size and shape. Unfortunately, the bird was not photographed. In the

first round of voting, the Committee was split on accepting the record but the second round vote was 6-1 against acceptance.

**Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)**
**2008-91-A** One adult, Adam Beck Power Plant, Niagara River, **Niagara**, 30 Nov
Although regularly reported from the Niagara River in late fall and early winter, Thayer's Gull remains a highly contentious identification problem. The subject bird was seen at what is considered by many to be the best place in the eastern US to see this species. It was also admirably photographed in flight, quite an achievement given the distances involved. While the plumage looked spot-on for this species, the size could not be determined from the photographs and it was not clearly described in the report. Some Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) have wingtip patterns practically replicating that of a Thayer's Gull. While such birds are rare, they occur with enough frequency to leave the committee unconvinced that an aberrant Herring Gull could be ruled out.

**Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)**
**2008-81-A** One, Democrat Point, **Suffolk**, 7 Sep
Birding Democrat Point following the passage of Tropical Storm Hanna, the observer saw a dark-backed, medium sized tern fly in from the ocean and fly overhead, disappearing to the east into the sun as it circled higher. Given the circumstances of the sighting, the Committee was concerned that the similar-appearing Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) could not be ruled out based on the description provided. Both species have occurred in NYS after the passage of tropical systems, although there hasn't been an accepted report of Bridled Tern since 2000 and Sooty Tern since 2006.

**Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)**
**2008-10-A** One, Fort Covington, **Franklin**, 19 Mar
This owl visited the observer's yard during the night, first appearing on the railing of the deck and then moving into some nearby trees when some outdoor lights were on so it could be viewed. Although the brief description was suggestive of a Great Gray, the detail was insufficient to firmly rule out other species.

**Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*)**
**2008-62-A** One, Sterling Forest, **Orange,** 25 May
This male hummingbird was retrospectively identified from photographs. At the time of observation the photographer assumed it to be a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*A. colubris*) but later noticed that the tail appeared strongly forked tail in one of the images and that the underparts appeared dark, suggestive of Broad-billed Hummingbird. However, the Committee felt that these features were not sufficient to support the identification. The tail of male Ruby-throats can appear notched and shadow could give a misleading

impression of dark underparts. Furthermore, the bill appeared to be all black, lacking the expected red base and dark tip of Broad-billed.

**American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*)**
**2008-17-A** One, John Boyd Thatcher State Park, **Albany**, 17 May
This black-and-white woodpecker was observed for a few seconds in a forested park to the west of Albany and thus well outside the Adirondack Park where a few American Three-toed Woodpeckers linger. The observer noted a 'ladder back' pattern on the bird's back and the absence of a white wing patch. No yellow or red feathering was seen on the head. The ladder back certainly argues against Black-backed Woodpecker (*P. arcticus*) but does not entirely fit with Three-toed. Given the limited views and unlikely date for a wandering boreal woodpecker, the Committee recommends that this bird be left unidentified. It is worth keeping in mind that some populations of Hairy Woodpecker (*P. villosus*) have very limited areas of white on the wing coverts.

**Yellowhammer (*Eberiza citrinella*)**
**2008-69-A** One, Boland Pond, Binghamton, **Broome**, 1 May
This small songbird was studied at a distance of about 70 feet with binoculars as it perched on top of a bush before flying a short distance and disappearing. No photographs were obtained. Based on the entirely yellow head, sparrow-like (conical) bill and pattern of head and breast streaking, the observer concluded that it was likely a female-type Yellowhammer. There are occasional reports of this species from the northeast and Chicago area. After consideration, the Committee felt that the description lacked sufficient detail to support the identification. Several key details were not recorded, including the color of the rump, patterning of the scapulars and the tail. A number of exotic finches have yellow heads, and the possibility of a North American sparrow with abnormal pigmentation also needs to be excluded. Although widespread in Western Europe, Yellowhammer is not considered a long-distance migrant, and the potential for vagrancy to North America is relatively low. There are no accepted records from North America (AOU).

**American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*)**
**2008-49-A** One, between Gardener & New Paltz, **Ulster,** 21 Aug
This bird was watched for about three minutes and seen flying from a stream area into thick brush. The beginning birder who saw it looked in a field guide and concluded it was a Dipper. This essentially non-migratory species is an unlikely candidate for vagrancy to New York and flying into thick brush would be very atypical behavior. While the brief description was not inconsistent with American Dipper, it did not rule out the much more likely Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), and it appears that this species was not considered.

**Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)**
**2008-16-A** Centre Island, **Nassau**, 26 Apr
The identification of this bird apparently relied very heavily upon a "white tail

with a black T" and "dark wings". The length was given as about seven inches and the bird was said to be flying from tree to tree in an open woods, fanning the tail prominently during short flights from branch to branch. Clearly, this was not enough description to accept this rarity, which is especially unusual in spring. Indeed, the behavior would be very atypical for a Wheatear and much more like an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), which would have been migrating through the region at that time.

**Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*)**
**2008-65-A** One, Margaretville, **Delaware**, 21 Jul
This bird ran into a window and was held by the provider of this report. The bird was revived after striking the window and released, but no photo was taken. There were three other observers present. Pearly-eyed Thrasher is a Caribbean species and is considered a very unlikely vagrant to NYS and is rarely, if ever, kept in captivity. Also, the very limited description made it impossible to draw any firm conclusion about the identity of this bird. Thus, while it seems unlikely to have been a Pearly-eyed Thrasher, it was a mystery to the committee as to what it could be.

## 1983 Report Not Reviewed

**South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)**
**1983-42-A** One, east of Montauk**, pelagic**, 11 June
This South Polar Skua was seen during an organized pelagic trip from Montauk, NY to Cox's Ledge, at that time a popular offshore destination for New York birders. Cox's Ledge and the surrounding offshore waters are now treated as being within Rhode Island's pelagic waters. Therefore the report was not reviewed as a New York record.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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# A COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*) NEST IN KEW GARDENS, QUEENS COUNTY, LONG ISLAND

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A Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) nest discovered in the Kew Gardens section of Queens County is the first historical nesting record of this species for Long Island and New York City (*Kingbird* Region 10).

At a New York City Butterfly Club meeting attended by Corey Finger on 8 March 2010, several members were discussing a recent spate of Common Ravens in Queens County, including a bird heard and seen in the vicinity of the Forest Park waterhole in May 2009. When Johnny Lawrenson, a naturalist from Kew Gardens, reported that Common Ravens had a nest on a water tower near his house, and had nested the previous year and fledged two young (Lawrenson, pers. comm.), his report was met with a healthy dose of skepticism. Nonetheless, Corey checked it out the following day, 9 March, and was amazed to find not only the ravens that Johnny had said were there, but also their nest!

## NEST LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The nest was in an urban landscape in central Queens County. It was situated on a crossbar of a large steel-lattice-supported New York City water tower. The nest was approximately 60 feet above the ground and 30 feet below the water tank. The nest was placed at the junction of the crossbar and one of the legs of the tower, in a spot that provided shelter from northerly winds and mid-day sun. Several coniferous and deciduous trees located on the site of the water tower and adjacent properties provided some additional seclusion. The adult ravens sometimes roosted in the trees. The site is approximately 1/8 acre and is surrounded by a cyclone fence, restricting access to the tower and pump house. The nest base was constructed of large sticks and was bowl-shaped and approximately two feet in diameter and one foot tall.

## SUMMARY OF NEST OBSERVATIONS

The nest was viewed exclusively from adjacent streets using binoculars and spotting scopes. Photographs were obtained by digiscoping.

Corey Finger first observed two adult ravens at the nest on 9 March, 2010. Subsequent observations were made by both Corey Finger and Seth Ausubel throughout the nesting period into early June. Observations were made at least weekly, but usually more frequently, for periods of 10 minutes to 1.5 hours.

From 10 March to 24 April, adult birds were observed brooding, and changing places on the nest. During this period, a warm day on 11 April was the only occasion that the nest was observed to have been left unoccupied for a significant period of time—approximately 10 minutes. On 10 March, one adult replaced the other on the nest and spent about thirty seconds manipulating something (out of view) in the nest. On 14 March, one adult brought a stick of appropriate size for nest building, and deposited it in the nest. On 5 April, while one adult was on the nest, the other adult arrived and was observed regurgitating into the nest, not to the other adult. However, nestlings were not seen at this time. On 10 April a food exchange was observed between the two adults at the nest. On 24 April, as the adults switched places on the nest, the incoming adult was observed regurgitating food to a nestling.

On 1 May and 2 May two nestlings were clearly visible, gaping and being fed by the adults. The heads of the nestlings were pink and their eyes were still closed. Photos were obtained. On 8 May, it was clear that three nestlings were present. One nestling appeared smaller than the other two. On 16, 17, 21 and 22 May three nestlings were observed, and photos obtained. During this period, the nestlings were covered with black feathers and were frequently observed exercising their wings and vocalizing. The nestlings all appeared similar in size. Parental visits were less frequently observed.

On 30 May, the young birds were much larger and were standing in the nest, appearing ready to fledge. In one hour of observation, the parents were not seen. On 31 May, the young birds had fledged. They were observed walking on the crossbar, returning to and again leaving the nest. They called raucously at the approach of an adult bird. Photos were obtained. On 6 June, two fledglings were observed on the tower, away from and below the level of the nest. They were vigorously exercising their wings in strong breezes. One adult bird was also present. All three were vocalizing persistently, and the adult was flying about the tower. It briefly fed one of the begging young. On 7 June, following the passage of a cold front, the birds were not seen or heard in about 30 minutes of observation. On 8 June two young and one adult were again seen on the tower. The adult was flying about and perching nearby with a food morsel, appearing to coax the juvenile birds off the tower (Loscalzo, pers. comm.). On 9, 13, and 15 June one juvenile was seen flying around and perching on nearby roofs and in trees. Observations on other days during this period near the nest and in the surrounding area did not result in any raven sightings. But one juvenile raven was seen and heard on 26 June in Forest Hills, about 1.5 miles from the nest site (Mirth, pers. comm.).

## DISCUSSION

Observations of the Kew Gardens raven nest indicate patterns and periods of brooding, parental care, and fledging consistent with documented norms (e.g., Boarman, *et al.* 1999, and McGowan and Corwin, 2008). Two, if not three, young successfully fledged in 2010.

In New York State, by the early 20th century, ravens were extirpated from all areas except the Adirondacks, due principally to human persecution and deforestation. Populations have increased greatly since then, and especially since the 1970s. As of the period of the Second Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-2005; McGowan and Corwin, 2008), breeding was confirmed in all Regions of the state except the western Great Lakes Plains and the Coastal Lowlands, including all of *Kingbird* Region 10. The increases in New York State parallel increases in Common Raven populations throughout the United States.

The ability of Common Ravens to use a variety of substrates for nesting, including man-made structures (see Boarman, *et al.*, 1999), and their increasing tolerance of humans following centuries of persecution, are undoubtedly key factors in the establishment of urban populations. The Kew Gardens nest is no exception. While some complaints from neighborhood residents occurred late in the nesting season due to the large, plaintive young birds, in combination with open windows, the authors found the residents to be curious and generally positive about the ravens. The ravens, in turn, were seen feeding various edible urban detritus (e.g., French fries, bread) to the nestlings, and foraging in gutters of surrounding homes. They were even reported taking hard-boiled eggs provided by residents.

Common Ravens will likely be a permanent and increasing part of our urban avifauna. While the Kew Gardens nest is the first documented in *Kingbird* Region 10, the event was anticipated (e.g., see KB 59: 296). Following pioneering visits near the Queens–Northern Nassau County line in 2006, documented by Peter Martin (KB 57: 15-16), ravens have been reported regularly from northern Nassau Co., Staten Island, and the Bronx since winter 2008-2009. The first report from Queens recorded in *The Kingbird* was July 2009, after the birds had nested. It would not be surprising if there were already other established nests in the Region. In fact, observations by Peter Martin around the Frick Estate in Roslyn, Nassau County, indicate the possible presence of a juvenile bird in early June 2010, and six ravens there on 22 June (Martin, pers. comm.). The distance between this regular Roslyn location and the Kew Gardens nest is 12 miles. The Roslyn birds disappeared during the nesting period in Kew Gardens, and were seen again around the time the Kew Gardens young fledged, so the possibility that they are all the same family group from two years of breeding in Kew Gardens cannot be ruled out.

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Common Raven nest site, Kew Gardens, Queens County, 31 May 2010, © C. Finger.

# A PREVIOUSLY UNDESCRIBED CALL FOR THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*)

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Several types of vocalizations have been reported for the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus)*, the most familiar of which is a two-note whistle described variously as *peeurr*, *kee-eee* or *peeowee*, with the first note higher pitched and shorter than the second. This typical call is given around the nest area and in flight and can be heard year round. There are also other calls given during food transfer, dismissal by the female when a male is approaching or leaving the nest, and a call emitted during copulation (Matray 1974, Goodrich *et al.* 1996). Herein I describe a previously undescribed call during an unrecorded behavioral context.

On 2 May 2007, I was conducting a raptor nest survey on the F. E. Jadwin State Forest, Lewis County, in northern New York State. As I was driving along one of the roads I heard a call which sounded Broad-winged Hawk-like and stopped my truck. I observed an adult-plumaged Broad-wing sitting in a partially constructed nest continuously uttering a call I had never heard before. The call consisted of two or three chip notes followed by a very short whistle. At the same time the bird moved around in the nest in a circular fashion. The nest construction appeared to be at an early stage as it was very easy to see through the bottom of the nest. There were some sticks in the tree crotch and some Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) sprigs in the bottom of the structure. The bird did not appear to notice me as I watched it for about five minutes. No other adults were seen within an approximate 50 meter radius of the nest while I was at the site. A search of the literature (Burns 1911, Matray 1974, Goodrich *et al.* 1996) revealed no mention of this vocalization or behavior.

Both Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii)*, while collecting twigs for nest building and during nest building, and Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos)*, while nest building, have been observed to vocalize during this portion of the nesting cycle (Rosenfield, R. N. and J. Bielefeldt 1993, Kochert, *et al.* 2002). Rosenfield and Bielefeldt (1993) suggest that the *kik* call used by the male Cooper's Hawk during nest building may function to alert the female to his presence near the nest. It is possible that this vocalization in Broad-wings may have a similar function in nest building, but this will need verification with further nest observations.

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SPRING 2009

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Overall, the spring was warm and dry as mentioned in almost all reports. "Silent Spring"-like conditions were reported from R8 where spring migration was preceded by an early leaf out. On the opposite side of the coin from the warm and dry trend, observations came in from R1 of Yellow Warblers and Baltimore Orioles feeding in the snow, certainly an odd juxtaposition.

Interesting waterfowl hybrid reports came in from upstate, with a Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler in R2 and two Northern Pintail x Mallards, one in R2 and another in R8. Observers are encouraged to track such hybrids; while the utility of such records is perhaps not obvious at face value (except in circumstances where conservation initiatives are tied up in pure-versus-hybrid populations, such as with Golden-winged Warbler), hybrids are fun to look at, challenge our identification skills, and encourage us to search through every last bird in a flock. Five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found at the west end of Oneida Lake in R5. This is the first report for the species in NY of multiple individuals. The apparently wild nature of the flock and the huge influx of the species north out of its widening Gulf Coast haunts this season both suggest that these birds will provide New York's long-awaited first acceptable record. It seems possible that this flock was the same that stopped at a pond near this author's home in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania the day before the NY sighting. Other sightings of five whistling-ducks in the region could also pertain to these individuals.

Western Grebes were recorded in R2 and R10. The coastal record fits with a now-annual pattern, but even the record from Wayne County was a 12th regional report. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen in both R9 and R10, continuing the trend of spring sightings in the northeast. Sandhill Cranes continue to be reported widely throughout the state, including well away from their Lake Ontario Plain stronghold. However, while Regions 6, 8, and 9 noted Sandhill Crane records as being more prevalent than normal, Regions 2 and 5 reported a decline in records during this season. Two Mew Gulls were detected this period; one continued from the winter period in R10 and another was a first Westchester County record in R9. In R7, the spectacular trio of Tufted Duck, Northern Hawk Owl, and Ivory Gull continued from the winter season.

The R10 report details some particularly interesting "event" reports, including good pelagic bird diversity detected on a few trips offshore and Andrew Farnsworth's 21 May crepuscular flight. This was in addition to some great rarities including a Pacific Loon in late May, two Wilson's Plovers, and a "Sooty" Fox Sparrow, all photographed.

This season, Regional editors continue to note the utility of eBird in compiling seasonal reports. Some respected observers note a lack of historical

perspective with the use of eBird, given that the majority of records have been contributed in the last five years; however, the sheer volume of up-to-date data provides an absolute wealth of sightings for these recent years. Increased buy-in from the New York birding community will go a long way toward increasing the usefulness of eBird in the future. Adoption of eBird by readers of this journal, the leaders of the New York birding community, will surely continue to trickle down to beginners who are learning methods of record keeping and responsible reporting.

There has been concern from some in the New York birding community that contributions of rarity records to eBird might replace the appropriate submission of reports to NYSARC. As both an active eBird user and a member of NYSARC, I think this concern can be assuaged. Regional reviewers of eBird are encouraged to follow up on "exceptional" records and can forward details to NYSARC for consideration by that committee.

For sheer rarity, number of satisfied observers, and quality of documentation, the "Sooty" Fox Sparrow might win the "bird of the season" award. However I'm going to call it for the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Although it is true that these birds disappointed many by not sticking around for more than a day at their upstate haunts, something tells me that the downstate folks will already have had a taste of a wild Black-bellied Whistling-Duck by the time this column is printed (I "predict" Jamaica Bay in late July/ early August...).

## SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2010

| Region | Species Reported[1] | Seasonality[2] vs. 87-08 | Advance[3] (Days) | Record Early Spp. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 91 | -1.75 | -0.97 | 7 |
| 2 | 92 | -2.89 | -3.11 | 4 |
| 3 | 86 | -2.29 | -2.17 | 6 |
| 4 | 85 | -3.91 | 1.73 | 7 |
| 5 | 93 | -1.39 | 0.62 | 3 |
| 6 | 90 | -5.06 | 4.29 | 10 |
| 7 | 84 | -5.03 | 5.06 | 10 |
| 8 | 86 | -4.19 | 0.32 | 7 |
| 9 | 90 | -1.92 | -0.99 | 10 |
| 10 | 87 | -3.13 | -4.78 | 3 |

[1]Maximum number of species = 93.
[2]Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region's 23-year average.
[3]Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions.

Given difficulties in estimating arrivals of some species in some Regions, estimates of Seasonality and Advance should be interpreted with caution.

**Spring Arrival Dates 2010 Waterbirds**

| Species | Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 | Region 4 | Region 5 | Region 6 | Region 7 | Region 8 | Region 9 | Region 10 | Average | 24-Yr. Ave |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **American Bittern** | 3 Apr | 30 Mar | **21 Mar** | 13 Apr | 8 Apr | 6 Apr | 5 Apr | 24 May | 10 Apr | 20 Apr | 10 Apr | 15 Apr |
| **Green Heron** | 11 Apr | 24 Apr | 1 May | 1 May | 22 Apr | 3 May | 5 May | 23 Apr | 1 May | 8 Apr | 24 Apr | 22 Apr |
| **Wood Duck** | 11 Mar | 9 Mar | 9 Mar | 11 Mar | 10 Mar | 10 Mar | 11 Mar | 4 Mar | **9 Feb** | 10 Mar | 6 Mar | 13 Mar |
| **Green-winged Teal** | 12 Mar | 8 Mar | | 11 Mar | 15 Mar | 11 Mar | 13 Mar | 20 Mar | | | 12 Mar | 17 Mar |
| **Northern Pintail** | 10 Mar | 7 Mar | | 4 Mar | 10 Mar | 10 Mar | 13 Mar | 14 Mar | **5 Feb** | | 5 Mar | 7 Mar |
| **Blue-winged Teal** | 19 Mar | 12 Mar | 21 Mar | 21 Mar | 27 Mar | 2 Apr | **21 Mar** | 23 Mar | 30 Apr | 6 Mar | 24 Mar | 29 Mar |
| **Osprey** | 22 Mar | 27 Mar | 26 Mar | 28 Mar | 24 Mar | **2 Apr** | 1 Apr | 25 Mar | 21 Mar | 22 Feb | 23 Mar | 28 Mar |
| **Virginia Rail** | 6 Apr | 11 Apr | 4 Apr | **2 Apr** | 9 Apr | **8 Apr** | 30 Apr | 9 Apr | 10 Apr | 17 Apr | 10 Apr | 17 Apr |
| **Sora** | 11 Apr | 14 Apr | **3 Apr** | 2 May | 18 Apr | 30 Apr | 4 May | 12 May | 11 May | | 25 Apr | 29 Apr |
| **Common Moorhen** | 24 Apr | 10 Apr | 11 Apr | | 25 Apr | 15 Apr | 1 May | 22 May | 30 Apr | 7 May | 26 Apr | 26 Apr |
| **Black-bellied Plover** | 28 May | 12 May | 24 May | 29 May | 27 May | 16 May | | 27 May | 4 May | | 20 May | 14 May |
| **Semipalmated Plover** | 9 May | 11 May | 7 May | 10 May | 13 May | 24 May | | 5 May | 6 May | 17 Apr | 8 May | 10 May |
| **Killdeer** | 21 Feb | 7 Mar | 8 Mar | 6 Mar | 7 Mar | 10 Mar | 11 Mar | 5 Mar | 28 Feb | 8 Mar | 5 Mar | 5 Mar |
| **Greater Yellowlegs** | 25 Mar | 28 Mar | 18 Mar | 17 Apr | 4 Apr | 5 Apr | 1 May | 12 Apr | 27 Mar | 3 Apr | 4 Apr | 7 Apr |
| **Lesser Yellowlegs** | 3 Apr | 2 Apr | 3 Apr | 6 Apr | 24 Apr | 30 Apr | 29 Apr | 22 Apr | 7 Apr | 6 Apr | 13 Apr | 17 Apr |
| **Solitary Sandpiper** | 4 Apr | 7 Apr | 15 Apr | 2 May | 19 Apr | 8 May | 1 May | 1 May | 1 May | 1 May | 23 Apr | 26 Apr |
| **Spotted Sandpiper** | **11 Apr** | 24 Apr | 17 Apr | 24 Apr | 23 Apr | 8 May | 2 May | 21 Apr | 11 Apr | 22 Apr | 22 Apr | 24 Apr |
| **Sanderling** | | | 23 May | | 15 May | | | | | | 19 May | 17 May |
| **Semipalmated Sandpiper** | 16 May | 12 May | 13 May | 10 May | 14 May | | 15 May | **3 May** | 12 May | 3 May | 10 May | 13 May |
| **Least Sandpiper** | 1 May | 22 Apr | **7 Apr** | 6 May | 2 May | 16 May | | 14 May | 3 May | 4 Apr | 28 Apr | 4 May |
| **Pectoral Sandpiper** | 11 Apr | 25 Mar | 26 Mar | 5 May | 8 Apr | | | | | 10 Apr | 8 Apr | 21 Apr |
| **Wilson's Snipe** | **9 Mar** | 5 Apr | 7 Mar | 2 Apr | 20 Mar | 24 Mar | 3 Apr | 21 Mar | 28 Mar | 14 Mar | 22 Mar | 24 Mar |
| **American Woodcock** | 17 Mar | 11 Mar | 11 Mar | 12 Mar | 8 Mar | 15 Mar | 2 May | 6 Mar | 2 Mar | 27 Feb | 14 Mar | 11 Mar |
| **Caspian Tern** | 9 Apr | 3 Apr | 5 Apr | **4 Apr** | 7 Apr | 9 Apr | 1 May | | 15 May | 17 Apr | 14 Apr | 20 Apr |
| **Common Tern** | 9 Apr | **5 Apr** | 11 Apr | 25 Apr | 26 Apr | 20 Apr | 1 May | 2 May | 26 Apr | 21 Apr | 20 Apr | 27 Apr |
| **Black Tern** | 29 Apr | 7 May | 4 May | 16 May | 6 May | 1 May | 4 May | 29 May | 12 May | 13 May | 9 May | 8 May |
| **Marsh Wren** | 2 May | 18 Apr | 4 May | 9 May | 2 May | 7 May | **11 Apr** | **9 Mar** | 30 Apr | 1 May | 24 Apr | 30 Apr |

Dates in **bold** type are record early arrivals for the Region.

**Spring Arrival Dates 2010 Landbirds**

| Species | Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 | Region 4 | Region 5 | Region 6 | Region 7 | Region 8 | Region 9 | Region 10 | Average | 24-Yr. Ave |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black-billed Cuckoo | 7 May | **1 May** | 2 May | **1 May** | 2 May | 14 May | | 9 May | 7 May | 3 May | 5 May | 11 May |
| Common Nighthawk | 16 May | 6 May | 7 May | | 15 May | 24 May | | 6 May | 8 May | 11 May | 11 May | 12 May |
| Chimney Swift | 21 Apr | 21 Apr | 16 Apr | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 23 Apr | 3 May | 22 Apr | 30 Apr | 16 Apr | 24 Apr | 25 Apr |
| Ruby-thr Hummingbir | 4 May | 5 May | 19 Apr | 5 May | 2 May | 11 May | 7 May | 2 May | 1 May | 30 Apr | 2 May | 3 May |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 2 Apr | 31 Mar | | 1 Apr | 27 Mar | **19 Mar** | 3 Apr | | | 10 Mar | 26 Mar | 3 Apr |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | 12 May | 24 May | 17 May | | 21 May | 22 May | 20 May | | 14 May | 8 May | 17 May | 18 May |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 14 May | 2 May | 7 May | 17 May | 14 May | 14 May | 16 May | 2 May | 2 May | 2 May | 9 May | 9 May |
| Alder Flycatcher | 15 May | 17 May | 17 May | 15 May | 10 May | 18 May | 17 May | | 15 May | **15 May** | 15 May | 17 May |
| Willow Flycatcher | 12 May | 5 May | 6 May | 16 May | 5 May | 18 May | 20 May | 14 May | 11 May | 5 May | 11 May | 15 May |
| Least Flycatcher | **25 Apr** | 1 May | 2 May | 1 May | 1 May | 5 May | 12 May | 2 May | 1 May | 30 Apr | 2 May | 1 May |
| Eastern Phoebe | 21 Mar | 12 Mar | 18 Mar | 21 Mar | 18 Mar | 1 Apr | 1 Apr | 6 Mar | 17 Mar | 10 Mar | 18 Mar | 22 Mar |
| Gr. Crested Flycatcher | 1 May | 29 Apr | 2 May | 10 May | 1 May | 1 May | 4 May | 1 May | 30 Apr | 28 Apr | 1 May | 1 May |
| Eastern Kingbird | 1 May | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 2 May | 30 Apr | 1 May | **24 Apr** | 2 May | 30 Apr | 3 Apr | 27 Apr | 28 Apr |
| Purple Martin | 11 Apr | 28 Mar | 7 Apr | | 21 Apr | 3 Apr | 19 May | 2 May | 6 May | 11 Apr | 18 Apr | 17 Apr |
| Tree Swallow | 21 Mar | 16 Mar | 12 Mar | 19 Mar | 11 Mar | **20 Mar** | 25 Mar | **24 Feb** | 9 Mar | 2 Mar | 13 Mar | 20 Mar |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow | **3 Apr** | 7 Apr | 2 Apr | **6 Apr** | 9 Apr | **10 Apr** | **11 Apr** | 14 Apr | 6 Apr | 28 Mar | 6 Apr | 15 Apr |
| Bank Swallow | **9 Apr** | 6 Apr | 10 Apr | **2 Apr** | 12 Apr | 7 May | 1 May | 19 Apr | 25 Apr | **7 Apr** | 15 Apr | 24 Apr |
| Cliff Swallow | 27 Apr | 3 Apr | 13 Apr | 6 May | **3 Apr** | 1 May | 24 Apr | 9 May | 15 Apr | 25 Apr | 21 Apr | 27 Apr |
| Barn Swallow | 2 Apr | 6 Apr | 4 Apr | 11 Apr | 7 Apr | 7 Apr | 11 Apr | 9 Apr | 28 Mar | 28 Mar | 5 Apr | 11 Apr |
| House Wren | 15 Apr | 10 Apr | 15 Apr | 20 Apr | 21 May | 22 Apr | **17 Mar** | 4 Apr | 19 Apr | 15 Apr | 15 Apr | 21 Apr |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 6 Apr | 10 Apr | 12 Mar | 2 Apr | 5 Apr | 3 Apr | 2 Apr | 3 Apr | | 5 Apr | 1 Apr | 6 Apr |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | **9 Apr** | 9 Apr | 8 Apr | 16 Apr | 10 Apr | 20 May | | 11 Apr | 10 Apr | 4 Apr | 14 Apr | 21 Apr |
| Eastern Bluebird | | 6 Mar | | | 2 Mar | 10 Mar | 16 Mar | | 11 Mar | 7 Mar | 8 Mar | 9 Mar |
| Veery | 5 May | **23 Apr** | 2 May | 5 May | 2 May | 2 May | 2 May | 2 May | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 1 May | 2 May |
| Swainson's Thrush | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 7 May | 24 May | 7 May | 13 May | 1 May | 7 May | 10 May | 30 Apr | 6 May | 8 May |
| Hermit Thrush | 5 Apr | 1 Apr | | 8 Apr | 5 Apr | 6 Apr | **6 Apr** | **3 Mar** | | 6 Apr | 1 Apr | 7 Apr |
| Wood Thrush | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 2 May | 1 May | 1 May | 1 May | 12 May | 24 Apr | 27 Apr | 27 Apr | 30 Apr | 29 Apr |
| Gray Catbird | 1 May | 15 Apr | | 1 May | 25 Apr | 1 May | 8 May | 25 Mar | 20 Apr | 11 Apr | 21 Apr | 25 Apr |
| Brown Thrasher | 2 Apr | 7 Apr | 7 Apr | **3 Apr** | 10 Apr | 18 Apr | 21 Apr | 10 Apr | 1 Apr | 16 Mar | 6 Apr | 15 Apr |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 11 Apr | **10 Apr** | **8 Apr** | **9 Apr** | 10 Apr | **15 Apr** | 20 Apr | **10 Apr** | 5 Apr | 4 Apr | 10 Apr | 19 Apr |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 1 May | 3 May | 2 May | 30 Apr | 8 May | 1 May | 17 May | 2 May | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 3 May | 3 May |
| Warbling Vireo | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | **16 Apr** | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 1 May | **22 Apr** | 29 Apr | **21 Apr** | 28 Apr | 26 Apr | 30 Apr |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 30 Apr | 29 Apr | 2 May | 2 May | 2 May | 10 May | 12 May | 1 May | **9 Apr** | 21 Apr | 29 Apr | 4 May |

Dates in **bold** type are record early arrivals for the Region.

**Spring Arrival Dates 2010 Landbirds (cont'd)**

| Species | Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 | Region 4 | Region 5 | Region 6 | Region 7 | Region 8 | Region 9 | Region 10 | Average | 24-Yr. Ave |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tennessee Warbler** | 5 May | 1 May | 3 May | 15 May | 2 May | 14 May | 18 May | 15 May | 3 May | 30 Apr | 7 May | 9 May |
| **Nashville Warbler** | 27 Apr | 21 Apr | 25 Apr | 1 May | 30 Apr | 2 May | 22 Apr | 1 May | **19 Apr** | 20 Apr | 25 Apr | 29 Apr |
| **Northern Parula** | 15 Apr | 4 May | 3 May | 6 May | 30 Apr | 4 May | 4 May | 2 May | 26 Apr | **5 Apr** | 27 Apr | 2 May |
| **Yellow Warbler** | 29 Apr | 22 Apr | 22 Apr | 30 Apr | 23 Apr | 1 May | 1 May | 21 Apr | 7 Apr | 16 Apr | 23 Apr | 26 Apr |
| **Chestnut-sided Warbler** | 3 May | 2 May | 2 May | 2 May | 1 May | 2 May | 4 May | 1 May | **21 Apr** | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 2 May |
| **Magnolia Warbler** | 1 May | 4 May | 2 May | 1 May | 1 May | 10 May | 4 May | 7 May | 2 May | 30 Apr | 3 May | 4 May |
| **Cape May Warbler** | 5 May | 30 Apr | 2 May | 11 May | 5 May | 15 May | 10 May | 1 May | 5 May | 2 May | 5 May | 7 May |
| **Black-thr. Blue Warbler** | 1 May | 30 Apr | 2 May | 30 Apr | 1 May | 1 May | 1 May | 2 May | 30 Apr | 24 Apr | 30 Apr | 30 Apr |
| **Black-thr Green Warbler** | 29 Apr | 29 Apr | 25 Apr | 30 Apr | 24 Apr | 5 May | 1 May | 24 Apr | **8 Apr** | 18 Apr | 25 Apr | 25 Apr |
| **Blackburnian Warbler** | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 1 May | 2 May | 1 May | 2 May | 5 May | 2 May | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 1 May | 3 May |
| **Pine Warbler** | 3 Apr | 2 Apr | 28 Mar | 4 Apr | 2 Apr | **6 Apr** | **10 Apr** | **27 Mar** | 1 Apr | 20 Mar | 1 Apr | 10 Apr |
| **Palm Warbler** | **11 Apr** | 8 Apr | 19 Apr | 18 Apr | 23 Apr | 12 Apr | 18 Apr | 4 Apr | 1 Apr | 4 Apr | 11 Apr | 17 Apr |
| **Bay-breasted Warbler** | 10 May | 6 May | 7 May | 13 May | 11 May | 14 May | **8 May** | 6 May | 9 May | 1 May | 8 May | 10 May |
| **Blackpoll Warbler** | 10 May | 6 May | 6 May | 8 May | 7 May | 18 May | 15 May | **6 May** | 3 May | 1 May | 8 May | 12 May |
| **Black-and-White Warbler** | 30 Apr | 30 Apr | 24 Apr | 18 Apr | 30 Apr | 1 May | 1 May | 24 Apr | 21 Apr | 7 Apr | 24 Apr | 25 Apr |
| **American Redstart** | 1 May | 1 May | 2 May | 2 May | 1 May | 2 May | 12 May | 1 May | 2 May | 29 Apr | 2 May | 2 May |
| **Ovenbird** | 30 Apr | 1 May | 29 Apr | 1 May | 1 May | 1 May | 2 May | 2 May | **15 Apr** | 24 Apr | 28 Apr | 29 Apr |
| **Northern Waterthrush** | 26 Apr | 24 Apr | 22 Apr | 1 May | 22 Apr | **25 Apr** | 2 May | 1 May | 19 Apr | 18 Apr | 25 Apr | 26 Apr |
| **Mourning Warbler** | 14 May | 10 May | 7 May | 5 May | **7 May** | **15 May** | 20 May | 16 May | 9 May | 7 May | 11 May | 14 May |
| **Common Yellowthroat** | 2 May | 29 Apr | 25 Apr | 1 May | 2 May | 2 May | 4 May | 28 Apr | 30 Apr | 19 Apr | 29 Apr | 30 Apr |
| **Wilson's Warbler** | 10 May | 4 May | 2 May | | 14 May | 21 May | 16 May | 11 May | **30 Apr** | 2 May | 8 May | 11 May |
| **Canada Warbler** | 1 May | 9 May | 6 May | 11 May | 6 May | 10 May | 16 May | 7 May | **1 May** | 1 May | 6 May | 10 May |
| **Scarlet Tanager** | 1 May | 5 May | 14 Apr | 2 May | 1 May | 4 May | 8 May | 2 May | 1 May | 28 Apr | 30 Apr | 4 May |
| **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** | 27 Apr | 30 Apr | 1 May | 30 Apr | 28 Apr | 2 May | 5 May | 25 Apr | 28 Apr | 28 Apr | 29 Apr | 28 Apr |
| **Indigo Bunting** | 4 May | 1 May | 3 May | 6 May | 2 May | 7 May | 23 Apr | 1 May | 2 May | 16 Apr | 30 Apr | 4 May |
| **Eastern Towhee** | 3 Apr | 12 Apr | 23 Mar | 24 Mar | 4 Apr | 2 Apr | 5 May | 28 Mar | | 7 Apr | 5 Apr | 10 Apr |
| **Chipping Sparrow** | 2 Apr | 26 Mar | 17 Mar | 4 Apr | **27 Mar** | 8 Apr | 6 Apr | 1 Apr | 20 Mar | 4 Apr | 30 Mar | 5 Apr |
| **Vesper Sparrow** | 11 Apr | 31 Mar | 4 Apr | 7 Apr | 2 Apr | 6 Apr | | 11 Apr | 3 Apr | | 5 Apr | 11 Apr |
| **Savannah Sparrow** | 6 Apr | 5 Apr | **6 Mar** | 3 Apr | 27 Mar | **1 Apr** | 11 Apr | 15 Mar | 29 Apr | 17 Apr | 2 Apr | 7 Apr |
| **Lincoln's Sparrow** | 30 Apr | 1 May | 16 May | | 3 May | 13 May | 24 Apr | 1 May | 2 May | 3 May | 3 May | 4 May |
| **White-crowned Sparrow** | 17 Apr | 12 Apr | | 13 Apr | 1 May | 1 May | 20 Apr | 15 Apr | 31 Mar | 30 Apr | 18 Apr | 24 Apr |
| **Bobolink** | 1 May | 30 Apr | 1 May | 23 Apr | 30 Apr | 1 May | 2 May | 2 May | 30 Apr | 27 Apr | 29 Apr | 2 May |
| **Baltimore Oriole** | 30 Apr | **17 Apr** | 15 Apr | 30 Apr | 29 Apr | 1 May | **11 Apr** | 30 Apr | 12 Apr | 29 Apr | 23 Apr | 29 Apr |
| Overall Average | 19 Apr | 17 Apr | 18 Apr | 21 Apr | 20 Apr | 24 Apr | 25 Apr | 20 Apr | 19 Apr | 15 Apr | 20 Apr | 23 Apr |

Dates in **bold** type are record early arrivals for the Region.

# REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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March was extremely mild and remarkable in that no measurable snow fell. It was only the second time in recorded history with no snow and followed March 2009 when only 0.5" fell. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 38.1° F, 3.8° above average. There was 1.70" of precipitation, 1.29" below average. Buffalo Harbor was clear of ice by 23 March, nearly a month earlier than normal. The April weather that followed was the second warmest in 140 years, including record heat during the first week and another heat spell near the end of the month. The mean temperature was 51.1° F, a whopping 5.8° above average. Precipitation was 2.07", 0.97" below average. May continued the warm and dry trend. The average temperature was 60.2° F, 3.2° above normal despite a cool snap 7-13 May, when temperatures were 10° below normal. A strong northeast rainstorm on the 7th was followed by a severe windstorm and a Lake Erie seiche on the 8th. The windstorm destroyed two Bald Eagle nests and forced numerous swallows down to the ground. Rainfall was 2.84", 0.51" below normal. A few snowflakes fell on the 9th, when temperatures were near freezing and an inch of snow accumulated in some of the higher elevations in the Southern Tier where Jeff Reed remarked on how unusual it was to see Yellow Warblers and Baltimore Orioles foraging in snow. A large and widespread influx of migrants occurred on the 14th following the brief cold spell, and migration peaked over the next seven days. There was very limited migration by the last week of May, a noticeably earlier dwindling than most years.

The warm spring continued the trend in recent years of earlier returning migrants. Repeating what I wrote in the summary for last year's spring article, it is clear that the migration phenology of many species is slowly changing. First arrivals are often occurring a few days earlier than the established 'normal' of the recent or not so recent past.

Goose migration was a little slow to start but then peaked heavily during the second and third weeks of March, then subsided soon thereafter. Tundra Swans had a strong movement on the 10th, as evidenced by over 2,400 counted at the Hamburg Hawk Watch. The maximum Snow Goose count was 57 at Oakfield on 15 March, and none were reported after March. Five reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were a good showing. There have usually been more **Cackling Geese** reports and totals in the fall season rather than the spring, which made the record counts on 14 March even more surprising. Peter Yoerg had **81** at Windmill Marsh at Oak Orchard WMA, with 11 earlier in the afternoon at Iroquois NWR. Jim Pawlicki and Dave Wheeler counted **79** coming in to roost with thousands of geese and waterfowl on Town Line Road in Hartland. The birding highlight for March was clearly the **Barnacle Goose** that was found at Forrestal Flats on the Iroquois NWR by Peter Yoerg on 17 March

and seen around the refuge several times over the next few days. A Barnacle Goose found by Willie D'Anna in Hartland on 27 March may or may not have been the same bird. Given that it/they arrived during the peak of goose migration, cavorted with other migratory geese, and appeared to be wild, we had little reason to suspect captive origins, but we'll just never know.

There were several higher counts of Northern Pintail in mid-March. The other duck highlight was at least two **Eurasian Wigeons**, which have become annual in spring in recent years. **Red-necked Grebes** were in decent numbers on Lake Ontario during late March, and 60 Horned Grebes at Batavia WWTP on 20 March may have been a high count for the location. The **Eared Grebe** at Dunkirk Harbor in late February continued into early March.

Although none were observed at the Region's hawk watches, Hamburg and Ripley, two **Black Vultures** were identified this spring. Both were observed perching. They are believed to be the first sightings in the Region that weren't merely flyovers. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were lower at the hawk watches this spring. However, a rare dark morph Broad-wing was observed and photographed at Hamburg on 21 April. Rough-legged Hawks were sparse, similar to the past winter, although 24 at the Hamburg Hawk Watch on 1 April was a nice count. Seven Golden Eagles were identified this spring, with five coming from the hawk watches. A new Osprey nest on the Niagara River in Wheatfield increases the count to three nests on the river, all started in recent years. Peregrine Falcon nesting locations increased again this year; details to come in the summer season report. A farmer in the Town of Willing, Allegany County, pleaded guilty after two Bald Eagles were poisoned from secondarily ingesting highly toxic pesticide that was inappropriately applied on a farm.

The top shorebird locations this spring were along the Feeder Road on the Tonawanda WMA and on the previously mentioned field on Town Line Road in Hartland. There were very early reports of regular species and some uncommon species sightings. Terry Mosher found a Solitary Sandpiper on the very early date of 4 April in the Town of Pomfret; there is only one earlier Regional record. Willie D'Anna's White-rumped Sandpiper on **1 May** in Hartland was a full nine days earlier than the previous earliest Regional arrival. Uncommon sightings included: two **American Golden-Plovers** and a **Wilson's Phalarope** in Hartland, a **Purple Sandpiper** off Niagara Falls State Park, and a female **Red-necked Phalarope** at Batavia WWTP in late May.

A **Black-headed Gull** was identified on the Niagara River in mid-March and immature Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were all identified along Lake Ontario well into May. Inland records of Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed in spring are uncommon, but perhaps a sign that the Chaffee landfill is under-birded.

**Short-eared Owls** were regular in a field in North Collins for several weeks in late March and early April. Hopes were raised for a breeding attempt after a photograph was forwarded to me of downy young Short-ears at a nest in this same field from May 1997; however, the owls were last seen on 9 April. There were only several **Common Nighthawk** reports, all in low numbers. Four

**Whip-poor-will** reports made for an above average season, including some excellent photographs by Joe Mitchell of a bird at Darien Lakes S.P.

Migrant flycatchers were numerous in the days after the brief cold spell in May. Five **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports were more than usual in recent years. An Acadian Flycatcher present at Tifft Nature Preserve from 23-31 May was apparently holding a territory even though the habitat wasn't typical. There are usually a few **White-eyed Vireo** reports each spring, but one found at Tifft Nature Preserve on 16 April was the earliest ever documented for the Region. Similarly, a **Sedge Wren** at Tifft Nature Preserve on 12 May was the earliest sighting in decades. The three previously mentioned species at Tifft Nature Preserve were all found by Dean DiTommaso and sighted by several other birders. Four Sedge Wrens heard at night in fields near the Iroquois NWR headquarters building was an impressive count.

Betsy Potter had a morning walk around her yard in Wilson near Lake Ontario that she'll always remember. Early on 18 May she was drawn to a Magnolia Warbler in an open area among some tangles about 20 feet away. She then saw a larger warbler next to it with a yellow throat and belly with some faint streaking, a bluish gray head and back, and it was bobbing its tail repeatedly, which made her realize she had a **Kirtland's Warbler**. After studying the bird for a few seconds longer to make a mental picture, she dashed off to get a camera, but the bird was not found again despite hours of searching. Betsy made a computer sketch and wrote down details of her sighting before consulting a field guide. Given that this was a single observer sighting and without a photograph, it is unlikely to pass muster with NYSARC to become the first State record. However, there seems little doubt to the accuracy of the identification based on the sketch and description, not to mention Betsy's skills with warbler identification. The only other warblers that regularly pump their tails are Prairie and Palm, neither of which could be confused in this sighting.

Among rarities not already mentioned, three **Snowy Egrets** were reported from multiple locations between 6 and 12 May. Overlap of sightings is possible, but at least two birds were present, if not three on occasion. A **King Rail** was heard but not seen on multiple occasions by several birders along Feeder Road on Tonawanda WMA in May. There are fewer than 10 documented records of this species in Region 1. However, little effort is made to try and find them. The marshes around the Iroquois NWR and adjacent WMAs offer the most extensive habitat in the Region. A male **Summer Tanager** at Wilson-Tuscarora SP was a nice find for Willie D'Anna. It was later photographed by several others.

The B.O.S. April Count was held on 11 April. Gusty overnight southwest winds associated with a cold front passage preceded a mostly mild and cloudy day. A total of 145 species was tallied over the entire Region 1 and the portion of the B.O.S. Study Area in Ontario. There were 12 record high counts going back to the 1935 inception including: Surf Scoter (75), Bald Eagle (45), Cooper's Hawk (55), Common Tern (332), Red-bellied Woodpecker (278), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (283), Blue-headed Vireo (15), Common Raven (32), Tufted Titmouse (244), Brown Thrasher (30), Pine Warbler (23), and Eastern Towhee (71). Most of these species have shown increasing trends in recent

years, while some of the maxima were likely influenced by the warm weather in early April. The only record low count was Canvasback, for only the second time in count history at zero. Other than species totals, the report for the B.O.S. May Count on 16 May was not received in time for inclusion in this report.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Elizabeth Brooks, Bill Broderick, Willie D'Anna, Dean DiTommaso, Lori Feltz, Kurt Fox, Andy Francisco, Wayne Gall, David Gordon, Carol Hardenburg, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tom LeBlanc, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Chris Newton, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Fran Rew, Gerry Rising, Debbie Sharon, Robert Spahn, William Watson, David Wheeler, Jim Wojewodzki, Christopher Wood, Peter Yoerg.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AlSP – Allegany SP – CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP – ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP – ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 11 April; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 16 May; BuSP – Buckhorn Island SP – ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant – GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L – CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP – NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP – NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP – NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch – ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR – GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP – ORLE; MI – Motor I NR ERIE; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP – NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area – GENE; PB – Point Breeze – ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot – CHAU; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch – CHAU; Tifft NP – Tifft Nature Preserve – ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area – GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP – ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP – NIAG.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Oakfield GENE 13 Mar (CW); Hartland NIAG 14 Mar (WD, DW); 5 INWR 19 Mar (DW); Porter NIAG 30, 31 Mar (WD); max 7 Royalton NIAG 9 Apr (BB).

**Snow Goose:** Wilson NIAG 10 Mar; 11, 28 Yates ORLE 11, 14 Mar; DH 11 Mar; 31 Hamburg HW 11 Mar; 6 INWR 11 Mar; 5 Alabama GENE 12 Mar; 28, max 57 Oakfield GENE 13, 15 Mar (JP, KF); 2 Newstead ERIE 16 Mar; last Hamburg HW 31 Mar.

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** INWR 17, 20-21 Mar (PY, JM, WW!, WD!, mob) & Hartland NIAG 27 Mar (WD!, WW!), both to NYSARC; undoc reports thru 2 Apr; apparent wild bird(s).

**Cackling Goose:** arr INWR 12 Mar; 6, 22 Oakfield GENE 13, 22 Mar (JM, JP, WW); 11 INWR 14 Mar (PY); **max 81** OOWMA 14 Mar (PY); **79** Hartland NIAG 14 Mar (JP!, DW), record high counts on this date, possible overlap; 4 Alabama GENE 15 Mar; 5 OOWMA 17 Mar; last Somerset NIAG 23 Mar.

**Mute Swan:** DH 9 Apr; 15 BOSAC; Wilson NIAG 9, 21 May; 3 BOSMC; only reports.

**Tundra Swan:** 2 Celeron ChauL 1 Mar; 105 Bethany GENE 10 Mar; max 2408 Hamburg HW 10 Mar (DW, JP); 176 Evangola SP ERIE 11 Mar; 59 BWWTP 20 Mar; last Tifft NP 21 Apr.

**Wood Duck:** arr 10 Lancaster ERIE 11 Mar.

**Gadwall:** arr 3 BeSP 5 Mar; 25 Hartland NIAG 19 Mar; 19 BWWTP 1 May.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** 2, 1, 2, 1 OOWMA 30, 31 Mar, 3, 4 Apr (DW, JP, JM, PY, WD); TWMA 7, 11 May (DW, KF); annual in spring in recent years at these locations.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr 14 BeSP, 16 Buffalo ERIE 16 Mar; max 280& 272 OOWMA 30 Mar & 4 Apr; 36, 1 TWMA 11, 22 May.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 2 INWR 19 Mar; few reports.

**N. Shoveler:** arr 4 Yates ORLE 11 Mar; TWMA 21, 22 May; 2 BWWTP 27 May.

**N. Pintail:** arr 2 Tonawanda NR, BeSP 10 Mar; 500 INWR 12 Mar (WD, BP); max 1150 Hartland NIAG 14 Mar (WD).
**Green-winged Teal:** arr 3 INWR 12 Mar.
**Canvasback:** arr 7 BWWTP 20 Mar.
**Redhead:** max 120 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 11 Mar; Yates ORLE 14 Mar; 30 Celeron ChauL 21 Mar; OOWMA 21 Mar; ChauL 13 Apr.
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 2 BeSP 5 Mar; 307 Celeron ChauL 16 Mar; 250 OOWMA 21 Mar; 6, 2 BWWTP 13, 27 May.
**Greater Scaup:** max 900 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 11 Mar; arr BWWTP 20 Mar; last PB 19 May.
**Lesser Scaup:** 20 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 11 Mar; arr 15, 95 BWWTP 20, 27 Mar.
**Surf Scoter:** FNSP 14 Mar; 75 BOSAC, high count; 2 BWWTP 11 Apr (CM); only reports.
**White-winged Scoter:** last BWWTP 22 May (KF), uncommon inland.
**Black Scoter:** PB 8 Mar; only report.
**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 2 OOWMA, 4 BWWTP 20 Mar; 4 AISP 21 Mar; 3 Celeron ChauL 21 Mar; 360 Lewiston NR 26 Mar; last 10 Wilson NIAG 21 May.
**Bufflehead:** 204 DH 4 Mar; arr BWWTP 13 Mar; 45 OOWMA 22 Mar; 91 BWWTP 10 Apr; 11 Sheridan CHAU 11 May; 14 BOSMC; last PB 19 May.
**Com. Goldeneye:** arr 5 BWWTP 17 Mar; last BOSMC.
**Hooded Merganser:** arr 7 Allegheny Res CATT 7 Mar.
**Com. Merganser:** arr 36 BWWTP, TWMA 13 Mar.
**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 4 BWWTP 20 Mar.
**Ruddy Duck:** arr Buffalo Harbor ERIE 11 Mar; arr BWWTP 17 Mar; 74, max 313, 67 BWWTP 27 Mar, 10 Apr, 1 May; 12 Attica Res WYOM 18 Apr.
**Red-throated Loon:** 11, 3 GHSP 7, 27 Mar; 9 FNSP 14 Mar; 3 Attica Res 2 Apr (KF); 1 Orangeville WYOM 2 Apr (KF); 42 BOSAC; last Wilson NIAG 21 May.
**Com. Loon:** arr GHSP 7 Mar.
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Ashville Bay ChauL, BWWTP 20 Mar.
**Horned Grebe:** 30 GHSP 7 Mar; max 60 BWWTP 20 Mar (KF); 24 Celeron ChauL 21 Mar; last ALLE BOSMC.
**Red-necked Grebe:** 15 GHSP 7 Mar; max 143 Somerset NIAG & Yates ORLE 20 Mar (WD); OOWMA 20 Mar; 98, 95 Somerset NIAG 27, 28 Mar; last 21 BOSAC.
**EARED GREBE:** DH thru 4 Mar (DN).
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 138 DH 11 Mar; arr INWR 21 Mar; max 772 DH 9 Apr.
**Am. Bittern:** arr INWR 3 Apr; 1, 2 TWMA 4 Apr, 28 May; Tifft NP 20 Apr, 7 May; Bethany GENE 29 Apr; LBSP 2 May (DW); Buffalo ERIE 7 May (JL); last two sightings were migrants away from typical habitat.
**Least Bittern:** arr Tifft NP 2 May (CN); 2 INWR 22 May; only reports.
**Great Blue Heron:** 68, 121 MI 24 Mar, 6 Apr; 94 n MI 15 Apr (WW).
**Great Egret:** arr 2 MI 23 Mar; Brant ERIE 14 Apr; Tifft NP 19 Apr; 57 + 36 n MI 30 Apr; max 90 MI 6 May (WW).
**SNOWY EGRET:** BeSP 6 May (JP, DW); Wilson NIAG 7-12 May (WD); TWMA 11, 12 May (JM, KF, DW); good showing, although cannot rule out sightings were from two birds.
**Green Heron:** arr 2 BOSAC.
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 81 NFSP 10 Apr; 36 MI 15 Apr; INWR 19 May; Wilson NIAG 20, 21 May; last 2 were only reports away from NR.
**BLACK VULTURE:** Hartland NIAG 14 Mar (WD, BP); Alden ERIE 29 Apr (JM); both birds seen perched, possibly first perched birds witnessed in Region.
**Turkey Vulture:** arr Hamburg HW 3 Mar; 1479, 1742 Hamburg HW 24, 31 Mar; max 3164, 1460 Hamburg HW 1, 2 Apr.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr AISP 22 Mar (TL); up to 3 nests on NR.
**Bald Eagle:** too numerous to report all nesting locations; 7 imm DH 7 Mar; 45 BOSAC; 2 nests destroyed in high winds 8 May, *intro*; 44 BOSMC, continued increases on counts.
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 122 Ripley HW 3 Apr.
**N. Goshawk:** Alden ERIE 19 Apr (JM); BOSAC; only reports away from hawkwatches.
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Ashford CATT 2 Mar; max 80 Hamburg HW 24 Mar.
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 2 Ripley HW 8 Apr; max 1424, 1316 Ripley HW, Hamburg HW 21 Apr; **dark morph** Hamburg HW 21 Apr (JP, DD, photo).
**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 24 Hamburg HW 1 Apr (FR); fewer than usual, consistent with winter.
**Golden Eagle:** 1, 1 Hamburg HW 19, 20 Mar (JP); Attica Res WYOM 21 Mar (KF); Yates ORLE 28 Mar (KF); 3 Ripley HW for season.
**Merlin:** Tonawanda ERIE 1 Mar; S. Dayton CATT 6 Mar; INWR 27 Mar; LBSP 28 Mar; Alden ERIE 3 Apr; Darien Lakes SP GENE 3 Apr; dead Lancaster ERIE 21 Apr; Wilson

NIAG 3 May; Silver Creek CHAU 6 May; WTSP 20 May.
**Peregrine Falcon:** arr Hamburg HW 18 Mar; Yates ORLE 27 Mar; Darien GENE 13 Apr; Amherst SP 10 Apr; numerous reports from nesting locations and elsewhere.
**KING RAIL:** TWMA 9-22 May (KF, MM!), heard only; rarely documented in Reg.
**Virginia Rail:** arr Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 6 Apr.
**Sora:** arr BOSAC.
**Com. Moorhen:** arr 4 OOWMA 24 Apr.
**Am. Coot:** arr 2 TWMA 13 Mar.
**Sandhill Crane:** arr INWR 20 Mar (WD, BP); 2 GHSP 2 Apr; Yates ORLE 4 Apr; 2 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 6 Apr; 2 Tifft NP 18 Apr; 4 TWMA 29 Apr (DW); 4 BOSMC; reports away from hawk watches.
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr INWR 28 May; only report.
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 2 Hartland NIAG 22 Apr (DW, JP), rare in spring.
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr Somerset NIAG 9 May.
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr CHAU BOSAC, slightly early; max 37 BWWTP 8 May.
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Pomfret CHAU 4 Apr (TM!), very early; max 15 TWMA 7 May.
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 Eden ERIE 25 Mar; max 26 BWWTP 2 May.
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr BWWTP 3 Apr; max 80, 75 TWMA 7, 11 May.
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 4 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 16, 30 May; only reports.
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr TWMA 21 May (WD), only report.
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 5 BOSMC; 2 Hartland NIAG, TWMA 21 May.
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 2 Hartland NIAG 1 May; max 67 Yates ORLE 6 May.
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr Hartland NIAG 1 May (WD!), record early; TWMA 21 May; only reports.
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 56 BOSAC ; max 31 Hartland NIAG 1 May; last 12 BOSMC.
**Purple Sandpiper:** NFSP 29 Apr, 7 May (JP, WW, PY), traditional location for spring reports.
**Dunlin:** arr NIAG BOSAC.
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 6 BOSMC, only report.
**Wilson's Snipe:** 4 Clymer CHAU 1 Mar; arr Clarence ERIE 9 Mar; max 12 Oakfield GENE 5 Apr.
**Am. Woodcock:** arr Buffalo ERIE 17 Mar.
**Wilson's Phalarope:** Hartland NIAG 8, 9 May (WD), only report.
**Red-necked Phalarope:** BWWTP 25 May (RSp), female, only report.
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 49 Allegheny Res CATT 27 Mar; 2 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 13 Apr; only inland reports.
**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** Lewiston NR 14, 26 Mar (DW, JP); FNSP 15 Mar (DW), probably same bird.
**Little Gull:** max 20 Lewiston NR 14 Mar (CW); 9 FNSP 15 Mar (DW); BWWTP 4 Apr (WW), inland reports very rare.
**Iceland Gull:** max 5 WTSP 3 Mar; 2, 3 NFSP 26 Mar, 10 Apr; Buffalo NR 9 Apr; Olcott NIAG 24 Apr; last 2, 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 12, 18, 22 May.
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 6, 4 NFSP 5, 26 Mar; 2 WTSP 5 Mar; 3 Porter & Wilson NIAG 11 Mar; Batavia GENE 13 Mar (JP, JM), unusual inland; GHSP 27 Mar; Chaffee ERIE 28 Mar (JW), inland; WoBSP 8 May; Olcott NIAG 18 May; 2 Wilson NIAG 23 May.
**Glaucous Gull:** max 3 FMCSP 2 Mar; Chaffee ERIE 28 Mar (JW), rare inland; Sheridan CHAU 9 Apr; Silver Creek CHAU 14 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 21 May (WD).
**Caspian Tern:** arr 5 DH 9 Apr; max 72 DH 1 May.
**Black Tern:** arr 6 INWR 29 Apr; max 18 INWR 27 May.
**Com. Tern:** arr 157 Buffalo NR, PG, Lancaster ERIE 9 Apr.
**Forster's Tern:** arr 2 BOSMC; 2 PB 22 May (DW).

## PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Hinsdale CATT 9 May.
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Bethany GENE 7 May.
**Snowy Owl:** Somerset NIAG thru 7 Mar.
**Long-eared Owl:** no reports.
**Short-eared Owl:** 4-2 N. Collins ERIE 15 Mar – 9 Apr (AF, LF); NIAG BOSAC; only reports.
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 2, 1 WTSP 1, 2-12 Apr (BP); Hinsdale CATT 30 Apr (JR), tooting; only reports.
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 2 BOSMC; Clarence ERIE 21 May; 1, 3 TWMA 22, 28 May; Alden ERIE 23 May; only reports.
**Whip-poor-will:** arr Darien Lakes SP GENE 2 May (JM, photo); Portland CHAU 3 May, BOSMC (CH), probably different migrants; TWMA 19 May (KF).
**Chimney Swift:** arr 2 Buffalo ERIE 21 Apr.
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Alfred ALLE 4 May.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** LBSP 28 Mar; 5 BOSAC; Westfield CHAU 21 Apr; PG 1 May; 2 Silver Creek CHAU 4, 9 May; Clarence ERIE 5-31 May; Yates ORLE 6 May; 3 Hamburg ERIE 17 May; 24 BOSMC; Emery P ERIE 27 May.
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr 2 N. Tonawanda NIAG & E Aurora ERIE 2 Apr.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr AmSP 12 May; BOSMC; Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 22 May; Tifft NP 23 May; Wilson NIAG 23 May; more reports than usual.
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Williamsville ERIE, Bethany GENE 14 May.
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr BOSMC; WTSP 22 May; 2 Wilson NIAG 23 May; LBSP 27 May; Ward ALLE 30 May; only reports.
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr BOSMC; Portland CHAU 17 May; Wilson NIAG 18 May (JP), migrant; Tifft NP 23-31 May (DD, DW), apparently holding territory in atypical habitat; 3 Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 29 May; TWMA 31 May (WD); Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 31 May.
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Holland ERIE 15 May.
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Sheridan CHAU 12 May.
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Tifft NP 25 Apr; 12 AmSP 15 May (JP).
**E. Phoebe:** arr Conewango Swamp CATT 21 Mar.
**Gr. Crested Flycatcher:** arr Alexander GENE 1 May.
**E. Kingbird:** arr Yates ORLE 1 May.
**N. Shrike:** a few reports in Mar.
**White-eyed Vireo:** arr Tifft NP 16, 18 Apr (DD), record early; AmSP 15 May (JP); BeSP 16 May (DS); Sheridan CHAU 21 May (DN).
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr GHSP, Alexander GENE 1 May.
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr 15 BOSAC; TWMA 31 May (WD), at n edge of range in Reg.
**Warbling Vireo:** arr multiple locations 30 Apr.
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Buffalo ERIE 6 May (JP, DW, photo), early; six other reports.
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr AmSP 30 Apr (GR).
**Com. Raven:** Concord ERIE 8 Mar; Darien GENE 10, 31 Mar; Bethany GENE 11 Mar; Colden ERIE 28 Mar; Arcade WYOM 4 Apr; Warsaw WYOM 4 Apr; Attica Res WYOM 18 Apr; 5 Holland ERIE 20 Apr (CN); Beaver Meadow Audubon WYOM 6 May; only reports outside ALLE, CATT, CHAU besides BOS counts.
**Purple Martin:** arr 12 BOSAC.
**Tree Swallow:** arr 10 AlSP, Oakfield GENE 21 Mar; 125 BWWTP 8 May.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr BWWTP 3 Apr (KF), record early; max 185 BWWTP 8 May (KF).
**Bank Swallow:** arr DH 9 Apr (JP!), early; max 505 BWWTP 8 May (KF).
**Cliff Swallow:** arr 8 BuSP 27 Apr.
**Barn Swallow:** arr 8 Orangeville WYOM 2 Apr.
**Brown Creeper:** arr Wilson NIAG 1 Apr.
**Carolina Wren:** 22 BOSAC and 20 BOSMC; up slightly from last year's count totals.
**House Wren:** arr Tifft NP 15 Apr.
**Winter Wren:** arr Wilson NIAG 1 Apr.
**SEDGE WREN:** arr Tifft NP 12-16 May (DD!, mob); 4, 1, 1 INWR 19, 22, 28 May (KF, MM, DW).
**Marsh Wren:** arr Tifft NP 2 May.
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 6 GHSP 27 Mar.
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Wilson NIAG 6 Apr; last 2 Buffalo ERIE 19 May.
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 3 Sheridan CHAU, PG 9 Apr (DN, WW, JP), early.
**Veery:** arr 2 Alfred ALLE 5 May.
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr 2 BOSMC; six other reports.
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Williamsville ERIE 30 Apr; max 12 WTSP 20 May (CN).
**Hermit Thrush:** arr Buffalo ERIE 5 Apr.
**Wood Thrush:** arr AmSP 30 Apr.
**Gray Catbird:** arr multiple locations 1 May.
**N. Mockingbird:** Bethany GENE 3, 16 Mar; Clarence ERIE 9 Mar; Alexander GENE 11 Mar; BWWTP 20 Mar; uncommon in these areas.
**Brown Thrasher:** arr 2 Alfred ALLE 2 Apr.
**Am. Pipit:** arr Hamburg HW 24 Mar.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 4 Tifft NP 30 Apr.
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr 1, 1 Buffalo ERIE 5, 14 May; Pomfret CHAU 13, 19 May; Tifft NP 14 May; WTSP 14 May; Somerset NIAG BOSMC; only reports.
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** arr BeSP 6 May; only report.
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Buffalo ERIE 5 May.
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Hamburg ERIE 30 Apr; four other reports.
**Nashville Warbler:** arr 2 AmSP 27 Apr.
**N. Parula:** arr AlSP 15 Apr (TL), very early.
**Yellow Warbler:** arr NFSP 29 Apr.
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr AmSP 3 May.
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Tifft NP 1 May.
**Cape May Warbler:** arr multiple locations 5 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Alfred ALLE 1 May.
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 2 Porter NIAG 20 Mar; arr E Aurora ERIE 5 Apr.
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 2 AmSP 29 Apr.
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr 2 AmSP 30 Apr.
**Pine Warbler:** arr Pomfret CHAU 3 Apr.
**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER:** Wilson NIAG 18 May (BP!, NYSARC), *intro.*
**Prairie Warbler:** arr 15 BOSMC.
**Palm Warbler:** arr Como P ERIE BOSAC (WG).
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr BeSP 10 May.
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Sheridan CHAU 10 May.
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Tonawanda Ind Res GENE 2 May.
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr multiple locations 30 Apr.
**Am. Redstart:** arr Sheridan CHAU 1 May.
**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1, 2, 2 TWMA 2, 9, 23 May (JP, JM, PY).
**Ovenbird:** arr 2 Tifft NP, Wilson NIAG 30 Apr.
**N. Waterthrush:** arr Alexander GENE 26 Apr.
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr BOSAC; Tifft NP 15 Apr (DD, WW), rare in migration.
**Mourning Warbler:** arr PB, WTSP 14 May.
**C. Yellowthroat:** arr Tifft NP, DLSP 2 May.
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Tifft NP 30 Apr.
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Sheridan CHAU 10 May.
**Canada Warbler:** arr WoBSP 1 May (DW), early.
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** arr WTSP 8 May (BP, WD); TWMA 19 May (KF), heard singing at night; only reports.

### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr Buffalo ERIE 3 Apr.
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Tifft NP 19 Apr.
**Chipping Sparrow:** Shelby ORLE thru (CM); arr Alfred ALLE, Bethany GENE 2 Apr.
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Almond ALLE 1 May (EB); Wilson NIAG 14 May (BP, WD); only reports.
**Field Sparrow:** arr Holland ERIE 26 Mar.
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 19 BOSAC; 5 BOSMC; Newfane NIAG 21 May; Alabama GENE 22 May.
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Bethany GENE 6 Apr.
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr AmSP 15 May; 10 BOSMC; Orchard Park ERIE 29 May (MM, DD); max 10 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 30 May (PY); only reports.
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1, 6 Ashford CATT 19, 26 Mar; well reported in early Apr.
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Tifft NP, Wilson NIAG 30 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 23 May.
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr Alexander GENE 26 Mar.
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 80 Tifft NP 30 Apr (WW).
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Eden ERIE 17 Apr.
**Lapland Longspur:** Yates ORLE 7 Mar; last 20 INWR 3 Apr (DG); only reports.
**Snow Bunting:** max 50 Sherman CHAU 1 Mar; 10 S. Dayton CATT 6 Mar; 2 Oakfield GENE; last BWWTP 27 Mar.
**SUMMER TANAGER:** WTSP 22 May (WD!), nearly annual in spring in recent years.
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Wilson NIAG 1 May.
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr BeSP 27 Apr.
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Portland CHAU 4 May.
**Bobolink:** arr multiple loc 1 May.
**E. Meadowlark:** arr 2 Hamburg HW 10 Mar.
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 2 Evans ERIE 11 Mar; 50 TWMA 28 Mar; 50 Orangeville WYOM 2 Apr (KF); 50 INWR 3 Apr; 20 Hamburg ERIE 25 Apr; last 48 BOSMC.
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Wilson NIAG, Portland CHAU 6 May; 16 BOSMC; Somerset NIAG 21 May.
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr multiple loc 30 Apr.
**Purple Finch:** 162 BOSAC, down considerably from last year; 170 BOSMC.
**Pine Siskin:** Youngstown NIAG 19 Mar; 3 Holland ERIE 26 Mar; 2, Marilla ERIE 10 Apr, 19 May; 5 BOSAC; BOSMC; only reports; few and far between after last year's surge.

### EXOTICS

**Chukar:** TWMA 17-22 May (several obs).

### ADDENDUM

**YELLOW RAIL:** W Seneca ERIE 26 Apr 2009; landed in residential yard apparently injured or sick; brought to Hawk Creek rehabilitation center 3 days later; died from starvation shortly after arrival.

# REGION 2—GENESEE

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It was indeed an interesting spring season. There were some great days for birding, but not necessarily great numbers of birds. It started off with a March to remember, our first ever with no measurable snowfall. The average temperature of 39.9° F was 6° above normal. There were 17 days classified as mostly sunny and 27 days with above normal temperatures. Precipitation was nearly half an inch below normal at 2.09". The only real weather event for the month was the wind and rain of 12-14 March, a result of a storm that hit the East Coast but spared us. Snow cover and ice left early. It was the warmest April in 89 years for the Rochester area. The month started out with record high temperatures on the first three days, and the first eight days averaged 21° above normal! That was followed by near normal temperatures until we finished the month off with summer-like weather on the last day. The mean for the month was 52.4°, 7.1° above normal. It was the third warmest April in 140 years. The month was fairly dry, with 1.56" of precipitation compared to the average of 2.75". We had 63% of the possible sunshine compared to the average of about 50%. It did make for some pleasant birding days. It would seem as though we would have had a flood of early arrivals, but that was not the case. There were some early ones, but for the most part things were about average or in some cases a bit behind. It seemed as though conditions were never ideal. The warm temperatures did give a boost to foliage progression, so vegetation was well ahead of normal. A 0.2" snowfall on 27 April kept us from recording the shortest snow season ever. May was quite an interesting month. It was variable to say the least. The average temperature of 60.5° was 3.5° above normal. It was the warmest May in 12 years, but it wasn't warm all month. The period 7-12 May experienced below average temperatures, with some days 10° below normal. That didn't last, as the final 10 days were all in the 80s. Precipitation totaled 2.55", 0.27" below normal. Most of the precipitation fell early in the month. There was a very slight snowfall on the 9th. There were plenty of pleasant birding days, but conditions weren't conducive to major groundings, and in some cases the weather was simply too nice. For the most part it was a lackluster month, as passerine numbers continued to be low.

It was not a good year for waterfowl. The lakewatch was manned somewhat regularly, but less than in the recent past. Even when covered, the passage of birds was very poor. Numbers were quite low for most species. Most also departed early, with few stragglers left behind. Highlights included Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, and the continuing Barrow's Goldeneye. A Blue-winged Teal x N. Shoveler at Salmon Creek was a very interesting bird. Loon maxima were low, but this may have been partially due to reduced coverage at Hamlin Beach during the usual peak time. It was not a good spring

for grebes. The maxima for Horned and Red-necked Grebes were low. A **Western Grebe** found by Chuck Gibson at Chimney Bluffs in March was a real highlight, the twelfth record for the Region. Many observers were afforded good views of this rare visitor. There were few highlights for waders. The arrivals were generally early, but not record early. Ray Robinson's **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was a good find, about the eighteenth record for the Region and first since 2002. Great Egret sightings were down considerably.

The Hawkwatch was manned once again by Dave Tetlow. There were a limited number of good flight days, but totals did not deviate significantly from the norm other than the number of Black Vultures. Typically we log 1-3 Black Vultures in a season and the total through 2009 was 31 total records. This year there were 11 reports of 16 individuals scattered across the Region and season. A maximum of 30 Bald Eagles was tallied at Braddock Bay on 14 May. Northern Goshawk numbers were low. Three Swainson's Hawk sightings was above average.

It was a below average year for Sandhill Cranes at Braddock Bay, but reports from other locations continued. An enticing report of a pair in the Town of Richmond observed by Paul Cowan was repeated by others into summer. This is in close proximity to Taylor Marsh, where breeding has been suspected, but the marsh is very difficult to enter and breeding has not been confirmed. The pair in Savannah again produced colts, but they were not being observed late in the season. There was little good shorebird habitat. Species totals were generally low. An American Golden-Plover in Hamlin on 25 March was near record early, and the group of 2-4 in Savannah in April was still early and unusual for spring. The Willet observed by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach was another highlight. Spring gull reports were not impressive, with Little Gull, Thayer's Gull, and a host of Lesser Black-backed Gulls being the only sightings of note. Common Tern numbers were low and Forster's Tern totals even lower. Black Terns were reported from Savannah and in very low numbers from Braddock Bay. This species continues its decline in the Region. The Eurasian Collared-Doves in Parma and Hamlin were seen consistently through the season. Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl numbers were just okay.

The passerine migration was characterized as poor by a number of observers. "Where are the birds?" was heard more than once. There were some decent flight and grounding days, but for the most part, it was not a great spring for songbirds. Both cuckoos arrived early but with numbers down a bit. Yellow-billed seemed to be the more numerous of the two. Common Nighthawk numbers continued to be low, and there were few Whip-poor-will reports. There were three Olive-sided Flycatcher reports, but flycatchers in general were down. This was particularly true of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Jay Powell found the only White-eyed Vireo of the spring, and Philadelphia Vireos were tough to find. Fish Crows continued to be reported in Rochester. Common Raven also maintained the trend of increased sightings, with new locations seemingly reported every season. It was a very poor swallow migration in the Region; peak counts were very low. There were two reports of Sedge Wren, a species continuing as a very rare breeder in the Region. One report was from Savannah

and the other from Mendon Ponds Park. Thrush numbers varied; Veery and Wood Thrush were okay, but Gray-cheeked was very scarce and Swainson's low. Gray Catbird numbers were good; large numbers were banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Passerine Banding Station. The 485 Am. Pipits at Braddock Bay on 1 May was a good count but still down from some recent years' peaks.

The warbler situation was mixed. Blue-winged, Tennessee, Yellow, Pine, Palm, Mourning, and Wilson's were early, and Yellow-throated and Louisiana Waterthrush were record early. The rest were about average for arrival date. Some observers felt that N. Parula and Cape May numbers were good, but the rest of the species were not found to be very plentiful. The Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (Kaiser-Manitou Station) numbers were good in the second half of the season. Five "Brewster's Warbler" reports do not necessarily bode well for Golden-winged Warbler. There were six reports for Orange-crowned Warbler. The maximum count for Yellow-rumped Warbler was a low 165. Warbler highlights included the record early Yellow-throated Warbler discovered by Lucretia Grosshans and Shirley Shaw on 11 April, a Worm-eating found in Island Cottage Woods by Robert Spahn on 10 May, a Kentucky observed by Dave Tetlow in Huckleberry Swamp on 25 May, and a Connecticut seen by Andy Guthrie on 24 May at Hamlin Beach. Yellow-breasted Chat is uncommon in the Region, but we had the usual few reports. Clay-colored Sparrows continued to be found, with reports from Braddock Bay, Hamlin, and the Nations Road area. The sparrow highlight for the season was a **LeConte's Sparrow** found by Richard Crossley and Dave Tetlow at Burger Park on 2 May. Lincoln's, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows seemed to be scarce.

It was a good spring for **Summer Tanager**. There were three sightings of this uncommon species. Dave Tetlow reported two **Dickcissels** from Braddock Bay in May. This species can be missed unless you are familiar with the flight call. This year's only spring **Brewer's Blackbird** was one in Hamlin seen on 14 April by Dave Tetlow. Baltimore Oriole was early and in good numbers. Finches were poor, with only a single Red Crossbill and a scattering of Pine Siskins in addition to the normal residents.

March's species total of 142 was above the 10-year average, April's 188 total surpassed the 10-year average of 184.4, but May was slightly below the 10-year average at 225. The species total for the year stands at 255. This is just a bit below the 10-year average of 260.9.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; CB – Chimney Bluffs, WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, C Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; GW – Ginna Woods, WAYN; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HA – High Acres Trails, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HI – Highland Park, C Rochester, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; HS – Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN; IC – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; LW – Letchworth State Park, LIVI, WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds Park, MONR; NO – Norway Road, T Murray, ORLE; NR – Nations Road, T Avon, LIVI; PA – T Parma, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T Perinton, MONR; PO – T Portage, LIVI; R – C Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SB – Sodus Bay, WAYN; SP – Sodus Point, WAYN; TC – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 30,000 S 13 Mar (MI); last 1 H 28 Apr.
**Ross's Goose:** arr 2 S 13 Mar (SB); 1 T Rose, WAYN 14 Mar (TL, CWi).
**Cackling Goose:** max 11 BB 15 Mar (DT); 1 S 10 Apr (TW); 4 PA 28 Apr (AGu); 2 G 30 Apr (DT).
**Canada Goose:** max 12,960 BB 10 Mar, low.
**Trumpeter Swan:** max 12 S 19 Apr.
**Tundra Swan:** max 100+ T Stafford, GENE 11 Mar (MC); last 1 H 14 Apr.
**Wood Duck:** arr 3 BB 9 Mar.
**Eurasian Wigeon:** 1m S 13 Mar (GC); 1m SB 20-21 Mar (mob); 1 m S 9-19 Apr (mob).
**Am. Wigeon:** max 257 S 4 Apr.
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 2 BB 12 Mar.
**Blue-winged Teal x N. Shoveler:** 1 G 25-31 Apr (RS, KW), photos.
**N. Shoveler:** arr 1 H 9 Mar; last 5 S 19 May.
**N. Pintail:** max 13,000 S 12 Mar (JM).
**Green-winged Teal:** max 900 S 9 Apr (JM).
**Canvasback:** last 1 G 21 Apr.
**Redhead:** last 1 BB 12 May.
**Lesser Scaup:** last 1 BB 19 May.
**King Eider:** imm m PA 7 Mar (CWo); 2f HB 8 Mar (DT); 1st win m G 9 Mar (GL, F&HL).
**Surf Scoter:** last TC 12 May.
**Bufflehead:** last CU 8 May.
**Com. Goldeneye:** last 1 HB 19 Apr.
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1m PB thru 8 Mar (JP).
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 3200 BB 13 Apr.
**Ruddy Duck:** arr 4 BB 10 Mar; last 1 HA 19 May.
**Red-throated Loon:** last 1 HB 20 May.
**Com. Loon:** max 909 HB 21 Apr.
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 164 CB 14 Mar (JeB, CWo), low max; last 1 HB 4 May.
**WESTERN GREBE**: 1 CB 11-22 Mar (CG, mob), 12th regional record.

**Double-crested Cormorant**: max 310 G 30 Apr.
**Am. Bittern:** arr 1 HP 30 Mar, early.
**Least Bittern:** arr 1 HA 11 May.
**Great Egret:** arr 1 G 28 Mar, early.
**Green Heron:** arr 1 HA 24 Apr.
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 1 Sandy Bottom, ONTA 11 Apr.
**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** arr 1ad G 1 May (RR), about 18th regional record.
**Turkey Vulture:** max 2388 BB 2 Apr (DT).
**Black Vulture:** 3 T Ontario, WAYN 18 Mar (DT); 1 BB 3, 5, 11, 19 Apr (DT); 2 BB 12 Apr (DT); 1 M 1 May (RK); 1 G 15 May (BC); 2 M 20 May (RK); 3 BB 27 May (DT, mob); *intro.*

## HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr 2 MP 27 Mar (KF); max 11 BB 7 Apr.
**Bald Eagle:** max 30 BB 14 May (DT).
**N. Harrier:** max 42 BB 2 Apr.
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 378 BB 21 Apr.
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 26 BB 3 Apr.
**N. Goshawk:** total 8 BB all Apr.
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr 1 sev loc 7 Mar; max 202 G 17 Mar (DT).
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 1 HA 8 Apr (MT); max 4388 BB 30 Apr, low max.
**Swainson's Hawk:** 1 H 3 Apr (AGu); 1 BB 3 Apr (DT); 1BB 4 Apr (DT).
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 316 BB 2 Apr.
**Golden Eagle:** arr 2 CB 14 Mar (M&JT); max 3 BB 28 Mar (DT); total 21 BB all Apr.
**Am. Kestrel:** max 50 BB 9 Apr.
**Merlin:** 6 all Mar sev; total 14 BB all Apr, total 6 BB all May.
**Peregrine Falcon:** total 3 BB all Apr; 3 BB all May; 2ad, 2yg R 2 May thru.
**Sora:** arr 1 S 14 Apr.
**Com. Moorhen:** arr 1 S 10 Apr.
**Sandhill Crane:** arr 1 BB 7 Mar (DT); 2 T Richmond, LIVI 9 Mar (PC); 1 S 14 Mar (TL, CWi); total 4 BB all Apr; total 20 sev all Apr, away from BB.
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr 1 H 12 May.
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1 BB 25 Mar (DT), very early; 2-4 S 9-24 Apr(mob), early.
**Semipalmated Plover**: arr 2 H 11 May.
**Killdeer:** arr 1 BB 7 Mar.
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1 BB 28 Mar.
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 7 CU 2 Apr.
**Willet:** 1 HB 27 May (AGu).
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 2 HA 24 Apr.
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 HA, BB 7 Apr; last 5 S 20 May.
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 1 S 17 Apr; few other reports.
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 1 HB 17 May.
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 2 H 12 May.
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 9-12 S 22 Apr.
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 G 24 May.
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 14 S 25 Mar; last 6 S 19 May.
**Dunlin:** arr 1 S 2 Apr (DNic), early.
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 G 24 Apr; few other reports.
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr 1 HP 5 Apr; max 60 S 17 Apr (CWi).
**Am. Woodcock:** arr 1 HB 11 Mar.
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr 1 BB 8 Mar.
**Little Gull:** arr 1 ad BB 19 Mar (DT); 1 ad HB 21 Apr (RS).
**Herring Gull:** max 3600 HB 16 Apr.
**Thayer's Gull:** 1 IB 6 Mar (JeB, CWo).
**Iceland Gull:** max 3 MONR 16 Apr; last 1 1st cycle G 24 May.
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** total 11 all May.
**Caspian Tern:** arr 1 BB 3 Apr.
**Black Tern:** arr 5 S 7 May.
**Com. Tern:** arr 3 BB 5 Apr.
**Forster's Tern:** arr 2 HB 8 May.

## PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 1-3 H/PA thru.
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr 1 BB 2 May.
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr 1 M 1 May.
**Long-eared Owl:** total 9 Manitou all Mar.
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** total 26 Manitou all Mar.
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 1 G 6 May; max 17 G 29 May.
**Whip-poor-will:** arr 1 M 1 May.
**Chimney Swift:** arr 2 Greggsville, LIVI 21 Apr, early.
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr 1 M 5 May; 25b M 22 May.
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr 1 G 31 Mar.

## FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr 1 G 22 May (DT); 1 G 24 May (KG); 1 M 31 May (GL, JD).
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr 1 M 2 May.
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1b M 19 May.
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr 3 HS 23 May.
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr 2 NR 17 May.
**Willow Flycatcher:** 1 sev 5 May.
**Least Flycatcher:** arr 1 M 1 May.
**E. Phoebe:** arr 1 BB 12 Mar.
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 1 M 29 Apr.
**E. Kingbird:** arr 1 G 30 Apr.
**White-eyed Vireo:** arr 1 HA 9 May (JaP).
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr 1 NO 3 May.
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr 1 CH 10 Apr.
**Warbling Vireo:** arr 1 G 30 Apr.
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr 1b M 14 May.
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr 1 H 29 Apr.
**Blue Jay:** max 6240 BB 1 May.

**Fish Crow:** 1 R 23 Mar (KF); 1 R 15, 24 Apr (KF); 1 R 4 May (KF).
**Com. Raven:** 1 G 20 May (GL).
**Purple Martin:** arr 1 BB 28 Mar.
**Tree Swallow:** arr 2 Groveland Flats, LIVI 16 Mar; max 65 M 14 May, very low.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr 2 BB 7 Apr.
**Bank Swallow:** arr 2 G 6 Apr.
**Cliff Swallow:** arr 1 BB 3 Apr.
**Barn Swallow:** arr 6 G 6 Apr.
**House Wren:** arr 1 South Conesus, LIVI 10 Apr (KC), early.
**Winter Wren:** arr 1 IC 1 Apr.
**Sedge Wren:** arr 1 S 19 May; 1 MP 21 May.
**Marsh Wren:** arr 1 BB 18 Apr.
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 1 MP10 Apr; last 1b M 23 May.
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 1 IC 9 Apr.
**Veery:** arr 1 WAYN 23 Apr.
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr 1 GW 16 May.
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr 1 R 30 Apr.
**Hermit Thrush:** arr 1 CH 1 Apr.
**Wood Thrush:** arr 1 T Richmond, ONTA 30 Apr.
**Gray Catbird:** 1 HA 24 Mar (JaP), wintering bird.
**Brown Thrasher:** arr 1 WL 7 Apr.
**Am. Pipit:** max 485 HB 1 May; last 2 HB 20 May.
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 211 HB 26 May.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 1 IC/PO 30 Apr.
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr 1 M 2 May. .
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 1 NR 1 May (JK), early.
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr 1b M 11 May; total 6 rep May.
**Nashville Warble:** arr 1 HP/CH 21 Apr
**N. Parula:** arr 1 BB 4 May; max 9 IC 14 May (SD).
**Yellow Warbler:** arr 1 HA 22 Apr.
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr 1 T Huron, WAYN 2 May.
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr 2 BB 4 May.
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 1 R 30 Apr; last 1 Zurich Bog, WAYN 29 May.
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr 1 G 30 Apr.
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr 1 Burroughs Audubon Nature Center, MONR 10 Apr; max 165 BB 5 May.
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 1 IC 29 Apr.
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr 1 CH 30 Apr.
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** arr 1 DE 11 Apr (LG, SS), record early.
**Pine Warbler:** arr 1 DE 2 Apr.
**Prairie Warbler:** arr 1 M 14 May.
**Palm Warbler:** arr 1 CL 8 Apr; last 2b M 18 May.
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 1 G 6 May.
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr 1 G 6 May.
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr 1 NO 3 May.
**Black-and–white Warbler:** arr 1 IC 30 Apr.
**Am. Redstart:** arr 1 GW/ PO 1 May
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr 1 IC 10 May.
**Ovenbird:** arr 1-4 sev 1 May.
**N. Waterthrush:** arr 1 HS 24 Apr.
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 1 LW 7 Apr (CS), record early.
**Kentucky Warbler:** arr 1 HS 25 May (DT).
**Connecticut Warbler:** arr 1 HB 24 May (AGu).
**Mourning Warbler:** arr 1 IC 10 May.
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr 1 M 29 Apr.
**Hooded Warbler:** arr 1 CH 2 May.
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 1 BB 4 May.
**Canada Warbler:** arr 1b M 9 May.
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** arr 1 Rochester Institute of Technology, MONR 10 May (AGa); 1 M 14 May (DT); 1b M 24 May (BBBO).

## TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr 1 PO 12 Apr.
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last 2 Mill Landing 20 Apr.
**Chipping Sparrow:** 1 WAYN 26 Mar.
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr 1 BB 4 May (DT); 1-5 H 17-31 May (mob); 1 NR 5-31 May (JK).
**Field Sparrow**: arr 1 H 3 Apr.
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 1 H 31 Mar.
**Savannah Sparrow:** 1 HP 1 Mar (DT); arr 4 HP 5 Apr.
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr 1 NR 1 May.
**LECONTE'S SPARROW:** 1 HP 2-3 May (RC, DT), 11th regional record.
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1 W 12 Mar; last 2 HB 19 Apr.
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1 M 1 May; last 1 M 28 May.
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 1 R 12 Apr; last 1 HB 26 May.
**Lapland Longspur:** last 2 BB 16 Apr.
**Snow Bunting:** last 1 H 16 Apr.
**SUMMER TANAGER:** arr 1 CH 14 May (KH); 1 IC 16 May (ML, AH); 1fem G 22 May (GL), 19th – 21st regional records.
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr 1 M 5 May.
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr 1 T Ontario, WAYN 30 Apr.
**Indigo Bunting:** arr 1 BB 1 May.

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## PHOTO GALLERY
## Spring 2010

Common Raven nest, Kew Gardens, ***Queens***: 16 May 2010 (top) & 21 May 2010 (bottom), both photos © Seth Ausubel; see pp. 216-219.

**Photos from the New York State Avian Records Committee's Annual Report for 2008.** See pp. 190-215. Above: Boreal Owl, Brasher Falls, ***St. Lawrence***, 3 Mar 2008, © Dave Rockwood. Occasionally this sought after vagrant from the northern forests will choose to roost in the open, allowing exceptional views. Opposite above: Band-tailed Pigeon, Middle Island, ***Suffolk***, 11 Dec 2008, © Michael Scope. The first occurrence for New York State, this Band-tailed Pigeon made daily visits to some feeders for about a month. Considered long overdue, the species has been recorded in a number of neighboring states and provinces. Opposite below: Northern Wheatear, near Lowville, ***Lewis***, 15 Oct 2008, © Jeff Bolsinger. True to form the Wheatear lingered for less than a day before moving on. It represents a first county and Regional record.

Above: Pink-footed Goose, Kissena Park, Flushing, ***Queens***, 28 Dec 2008, © Angus Wilson. Below: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Jamaica Bay, ***Queens***, 4 Aug 2008, © Doug Gochfeld. These Queens County sightings involve species native to Eurasia and both represent the third accepted NYS records.

**DICKCISSEL:** arr 1 BB 1 May (DT); 1 BB 14 May (DT).
**Bobolink:** arr 3 G 30 Apr; max 152 BB 14 May.
**E. Meadowlark:** arr 1 G 12 Mar; max 12 HP 26 Mar.
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 2 BB 25 Mar; max **867** BB 3 Apr; last 4 HB 20 May.
**Brewer's Blackbird:** arr 1 H 14 Apr (DT).
**Orchard Oriole:** arr 1 IC/NR 1 May.
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr 1 PA 17 Apr, very early; max 84 BB 5 May.
**Red Crossbill:** arr 1 HP 10 Apr (DT).
**Pine Siskin:** last 1 HB 27 May.

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## REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Spring 2010 was an interesting period in Region 3 both for its weather and the fascinating variety of birds. All three months had temperatures warmer than normal, with several significant warm spells contributing to the high averages. Precipitation events were largely not noteworthy, and monthly totals were within an inch of typical levels, though April and May were dryer than normal. Snow was only recorded in early March, and even that was only ~1.2". March was marked by two warm spells with temperatures 10° F greater than normal, one from 11-13 March and another from 18-22 March. A cold front brought sharply reduced temperatures on 27 March, with a high of 30° F, about 14° below the normal temperature for that date. April began with a major warming trend, with four days breaking 80° in the first half of the month, and temperatures at least 10° above normal for 2-9 April. May also got off to a hot start, with a southerly flow 1-4 May with temperatures at least 10° above normal. This trend coincided with an influx of neotropical migrants into the Region and also ushered in some of the rarest birds of the period as discussed below. One non-weather event worth noting is a wildfire that burned around 700 acres of marsh near the Main Pool at Montezuma NWR on 4 April. The smoke from the blaze was visible in Ithaca, nearly 40 miles away to the south. Long-lasting impacts on local birdlife are not anticipated given the location and quick regeneration of the burn area.

This spring, though lacking reports of many uncommon but regular species, was punctuated by several significant rarities. These included the Region's first two reports of **Mississippi Kite**, five reports of **Black Vulture**, Whimbrel, two Little Gulls, **Franklin's Gull**, Sedge Wren, **Yellow-throated Warbler** (ssp. *dominica*), and Prothonotary Warbler. This report focuses on species and number highlights and how they reflect patterns of status and distribution on a larger scale, as well as discrete weather events and the birds associated with them. Along a similar vein, specific spring arrival dates are not

supplied for some species in the Region because of the increasingly blurred line between wintering and arrival dates in some cases. First records for each year for the Cayuga Lake Basin, where the vast majority of Region 3 reports originate, are compiled on the website of the Cayuga Bird Club (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/cayugabirdclub/firstrecords.htm). Additionally, eBird's immense and growing database allows anyone to generate arrival tables for states, counties, or hotspots, and to compare yearly migration trends for any species or suite of species relative to historical data.

Waterfowl migration is one of the truly exciting predictable events of the birding year in Region 3. This year's migration was stellar as usual, though the typically prolonged goose flight through the area was largely compressed into a few days. Usually large numbers of geese can be counted on for several weeks in the general vicinity of Montezuma NWR after passing over most of the Region's birders in Ithaca. This year, after a huge flight on 10 March that was witnessed by many birders at the south end of Cayuga Lake, around half a million Snow Geese and lesser numbers of Canadas staged around Montezuma for only a few days before moving out of the area. This is likely due in part to warmer than average local temperatures, a lack of snow cover which failed to concentrate the geese, and an exceptionally early spring in eastern Canada, characterized by high temperatures, early snowmelt, and lots of open ground, which allowed birds to pass out of the northeastern US much earlier than normal. Though most of the Snow Geese that move through the Finger Lakes in spring appear to be "Greater" Snow Geese based on appearance and the very low proportions of dark morph birds in large flocks, it is apparent that "Lesser" Snow Geese are involved in spring flights as well. This year, many of the more westerly breeding "Lesser" Snow Geese arrived in breeding areas on the western Hudson Bay in Manitoba around a month early, following the warmest March on record and a similarly warm April. As discussed here, reports from breeding areas outside the immediate reporting area can often lend cues as to migratory patterns and behavior.

One of the interesting consequences of the quick exit of the geese to the north was the relative geography of Cackling and Ross's Goose records this spring. Both species are now known to be regular in the hordes of Canada and Snow Geese that pass through the Region. However, this year the majority of both Cackling and Ross's Goose records in the Region came from Tompkins County as flyovers. Four Ross's Geese and 22 Cackling Geese were noted between 8 and 17 March by observers around Ithaca, indicating not only the quality of observer coverage in that location but also the change in our understanding of the status of these species in the Region over the years.

One interesting goose from the period that is worth discussing was an apparent "Greenland" Greater White-fronted Goose (ssp. *flavirostris*) that Gary Kohlenberg found at Myers Point, Lansing, Tompkins County at the end of the winter season and which continued through at least 6 March. The bird obliged with extremely close views and was well photographed. Additionally, the Greater White-fronted Goose was accompanied by a Canada Goose marked with a yellow neck collar, likely also of Greenland origin based on a number of

recent similar tag returns from the northeast from Canada Geese associated with Greater White-fronted or even Barnacle Geese, though this has not been confirmed at the time of writing.

Prodigious numbers of ducks were present in mid-March in the flooded agricultural fields along the Seneca Canal between Montezuma NWR and Savannah, an area that bridges two different *Kingbird* reporting Regions. Trumpeter Swans were observed nesting in at least three locations at Montezuma NWR this spring, and the summer report will likely detail the success of these nestings. With a year-round presence, increased breeding, and high numbers of migrants and wintering birds, it should not be long before NYSARC officially recognizes the species as established within the state.

The days of 8-9 May saw an interesting pair of herons at different locations in the Region. A Cattle Egret was a surprise find for David and Debbie Suggs on 8 May at Myers Point, Lansing, and a Snowy Egret was found the very next day in Union Springs by Ann Mitchell and Gary Kohlenberg. No obvious connection between the sightings exists other than the date being an excellent one for bird migration in general.

The aforementioned southerly flow in early May that ushered in many songbird arrivals was also responsible for the overdue first record of **Mississippi Kite** for the Cayuga Lake Basin. Chris Wood and Jessie Barry spotted an immature kite while driving and followed the bird along Fall Creek from Dryden into Ithaca, Tompkins County. The bird was later seen along the creek briefly before disappearing, though a number of searchers enjoyed the consolation prize of at least one **Black Vulture** that cruised over Ithaca and Lansing for much of the day. On 31 May, Ken Rosenberg studied another **Mississippi Kite** during a fortuitous hawkwatch near his yard in northeast Ithaca. Given the species' surge northward in recent years and the likely breeding last year and this year in Montgomery County, we can only expect more of these graceful raptors in the skies of New York in the future. Likewise, reports of at least five **Black Vultures** track nicely with a widely documented northward push of this species.

Shorebird habitat at Montezuma NWR this spring was relatively poor, with the impoundment at the refuge visitor center being the focus area for most observations. A nice day of visible migration on 24 May at the refuge revealed a movement of over 80 Semipalmated Plover, six Black-bellied Plover, several Dunlin, and a Sanderling. Though always very rare in the Region and never part of a predictable phenomenon, a Whimbrel passed Myers Point on 6 May.

Jeff Gerbracht and Tim Lenz turned up a lovely but ephemeral rarity at Myers Point on 3 May, an adult **Franklin's Gull** in breeding plumage! Likely put down by storms accompanying a passing frontal system, the bird cleared out quickly after the weather improved, eluding other observers. Associated in date but probably not in mode of migration or place of origin was a **Laughing Gull** that Jay McGowan found on Cayuga Lake 6 May off the Varick waterfront. Earlier that day, Chuck Gibson saw a hooded gull at the Montezuma NWR visitor center; it seems likely that multiple birds were involved.

Always rare but usually annual in the Region, Whip-poor-wills were found in three locations this spring in a fairly tight window from 30 April to 4 May in

Tompkins County. At least two of the migrant Whip-poor-wills found in recent years have called for a brief period right around the end of civil twilight (about 8:30 PM here, in the beginning of May) before going silent and presumably continuing on migration. Keying in on this temporal window could lead to the discovery of more migrant Whip-poor-wills. The species has not been found nesting in the Region for many years, and almost all records are of singing spring migrants encountered briefly.

Purple Martins nested in Tompkins County this year at Willow Point on the west side of Cayuga Lake. Though the species is uncommon to common along the northern half of the lake and the surrounding agricultural land, it is not usually detected as a breeder in the Ithaca area. Swallow migration was widely enjoyed this year, with hundreds of individual swallows representing all local species concentrating along Cayuga Lake 25-26 April. Minor cold snaps in May were enough to disrupt nesting for some Tree Swallows due to the temperature's influence on insect availability and perhaps swallow metabolism, and substantial nest failure or abandonment was well documented in the Region by the long term project coordinated by Dr. David Winkler at Cornell University.

Only two obvious pushes of neotropical landbird migrants were noticed as distinct from the usual trend in spring migration for migrants to suddenly "appear" on their breeding territories with little fallout or flocking fanfare. The night of 30 April-1 May represented a moderate to heavy flight, with numbers of herons, rails, and early cuckoos noted in addition to passerines calling in nocturnal migration. Perhaps more significantly, and surprising given the late date, 16 May provided a welcome surge of songbird migrants throughout the Region. In Tompkins County, Laura Stenzler reported that the morning was "the birdiest I have experienced at our property on Hunt Hill". Geo Kloppel turned up a surprising total of 10 Tennessee Warblers along Bald Hill Rd. in Danby, and many other observers enjoyed excellent birding as well.

At the end of the month, two closely linked warbler records fit into a pattern of southern overshoots. On 30 May, I found a road-killed Prothonotary Warbler along Fall Creek in Ithaca, now deposited with the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates. The next day, while working on book projects at their home, Chris Wood and Jessie Barry discovered a singing Yellow-throated Warbler, also along Fall Creek but a bit further east in Dryden. The Yellow-throated Warbler spent the afternoon singing from tall white pines and spruces. The habitat and the yellow marks in the bird's lores, along with long bill, suggest that it is of the subspecies *dominica*, different from the *albilora* birds which breed in New York at Allegany State Park. Both Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warbler, species of southern forests, are extremely rare in Tompkins County, and the temporal and geographic association of these two records cannot be ignored, especially with the added impact of the kite record from Ithaca on 31 May. Ken Rosenberg listened for night flight calls on the evening of 31 May and noted around 30 thrushes and several cuckoos, further providing evidence for a landbird movement late in the month after most local breeders are well into their reproductive activities.

Orchard Orioles were widely reported this spring, mostly from the Ithaca to Montezuma corridor along the east side of Cayuga Lake. Jay and Perri McGowan found a surprising seven during a trip along that corridor on 27 May. Comparisons of the frequency and abundance of Orchard Oriole in the Region as compared with previous years, based on eBird reports, did not show a significant increase over the average, but observers should be careful to watch and listen for this species, one of a number of potential vanguards from the south.

One of the valuable aspects of long-term bird banding operations is the precise geographical connections made by the recoveries of banded birds, providing ornithologists with hard evidence of bird migration. One really interesting recovery this year involved a Pine Siskin that was banded by John and Sue Gregoire at Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory in Burdett. They originally caught the bird on 16 April 2009, and it was found dead almost a year later on 2 April 2010 near Fulford Harbor Island, British Columbia, Canada, over 2200 miles away.

Most of the data summarized in this report comes from eBird and the Cayugabirds-l listserv hosted by Cornell University. Arrival date compilation was aided by the careful arrival tracking efforts and review of Dave Nutter and Matt Medler. Observers are encouraged to submit their sightings to eBird and to provide links to documentation photos of rarities in the comments fields of that application.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

MtPl – Mount Pleasant, Dryden; MNWR – Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MyPt – Myers Point; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca; SMSC – Savannah Mucklands Seneca County.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Ross's Goose:** 4 Ithaca-Dryden 8-10 Mar (TJ, JB, AF, CWo).
**Snow Goose**: max 300,000-600,000 MNWR 8 Mar (LVL).
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Myers thru 6 Mar (mob).
**Cackling Goose:** 22 over Tompkins Co. 8-17 Mar (mob); max 10 MtPl 10 Mar (TJ, JM).
**Brant:** 220 MNWR 8 May (TJ), high.
**Tundra Swan:** 1044 Cayuga Lock 8 March (CWo), high.
**Trumpeter Swan:** 3+ pairs nesting MNWR.
**Am. Black Duck:** 650 SMSC (MI), high.
**Green-winged Teal intergrade** (*crecca* x *carolinensis*): MNWR 14-17 Apr (TL, MI).
**Eurasian Wigeon:** CLSP 14 Mar (TL, CWi); MNWR 20 Mar- 24 Apr (mob); SMSC 14 Mar (mob).
**Canvasback:** 12000 MNWR 19 Mar (IBA monitoring).
**Great Egret:** Union Springs 24 May (TJ, CWi), rare in CAYU.
**SNOWY EGRET:** Union Springs 9 May (GK, AM).
**CATTLE EGRET:** MyPt 8 May (DDS).

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Dryden/ Ithaca 2 May (CWo, JB); Ithaca 31 May (KR), first regional records.
**BLACK VULTURE:** Lansing/ Ithaca 2 May (TJ, mob); Ithaca 7 May (DN); Ithaca 16 May (CD, NC); Dryden 21 May (TJ); 2 Ithaca mid-May (SuF).
**Golden Eagle:** 20 individuals reported during spring migration in Tompkins County (mob).
**Sora:** MNWR 2 Apr (AB), regional record early.
**Sandhill Crane:** arr MNWR 14 Mar (TL, CWi); bred Genoa (Cayuga Co.); Dryden Lake 11 Apr (NI, JM).
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr 5 MNWR 24 May (TBJ, CWi).
**Semipalmated Plover:** 80 MNWR 24 May (TBJ, CWi) high.
**Whimbrel:** MyPt 6 May (MI, BS, JB).
**Least Sandpiper:** MNWR 6 Apr (DD), regional record early.
**Ruddy Turnstone:** MyPt 12 May (TBJ), only report.
**Wilson's Phalarope:** MNWR 6 May (CG, JM); MNWR 19-21 May (LL, BM).
**Red-necked Phalarope:** MNWR 28 May (JM, PM, AV).
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** last Dryden 24 Apr (KM).
**Iceland Gull:** last StPk 2 May (NW, JM).
**Glaucous Gull:** last Dryden 16 Mar (CWo, JB).
**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** MyPt 3 May (JG, TL).
**Laughing Gull:** Varick, Cayuga Lake 6 May (JM).
**Little Gull:** MyPt 9 Apr (JM); MyPt 11 May (TJ), both adults.

### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Short-eared Owl:** 3 Lansing 7 Mar (TJ).
**Long-eared Owl:** Lansing 6 Mar (TJ, SB, CS, CWi).
**Whip-poor-will:** Danby 30 Apr (TJ); Lansing 2 May (LW); Lansing 4 May TV).
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Dryden 18 Apr (NM); noticeably low numbers this season.
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Ithaca 5 May (TS).

### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Purple Martin:** breeding Willow Point, TOMP, rare as a breeder in the county.
**Bank Swallow:** MNWR and Lansing 9 Apr (TJ, JM), very early.
**SEDGE WREN:** MNWR 22 May (GL).

### WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** 10 Danby 16 May (GK), high.
**Golden-winged Warbler:** Dryden 1 May (CWo, JB).
**Palm Warbler:** both subspecies StPk 26 Apr (DN).
**Cerulean Warbler:** migrant SW 5 May (AMJ, LS).

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** 1 *dominica* Dryden 31 May (CWo, JB).
**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1 roadkill 30 May Ithaca (TJ), very rare in Tompkins County.

**TOWHEES – WEAVERS**

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** singing male Shindagin Hollow 16 May (MM).
**Chipping Sparrow:** first 16 Mar (MW; TJ), early.
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last SW 20 Apr (JM, TJ), late.
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr MyPt 5 Mar (TJ), early.
**Orchard Oriole:** 7 East side of Cayuga Lake 28 May (JM, PM), high.
**Baltimore Oriole:** 1 MyPt 14 Apr (TJ), early.

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## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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Snowpack remained for the first 10 days of March from the 10-20" snowfall on 26-27 February. However, the March that followed was one of the warmest and most snow-free on record. This was followed by very dry and warm months of April and May.

The first goose flights occurred as usual during early March, and ducks followed on subsequent warm fronts. Forster's, Black, and Caspian Terns were good finds for the Region. A late White-winged Scoter was documented in Tioga County in mid May. Two **N. Saw-whet Owls** were noted for the period. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were down, and Short-eared Owls weren't found at Arnold Road, a typical hotspot. The spring hawk watches east of Otsego Lake yielded an impressive **79 Golden Eagles** and 22 Bald Eagles. The last two years these spring watches have been conducted by members of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society. These are the same folks who often help with the Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch. Nesting **Merlins** were noted in typical city locations such as Oneonta, Binghamton, Cortland, and Cooperstown. Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Plover, and Black-bellied Plover provided for more than usual shorebird diversity for this Region for spring.

It was a down year for Northern Shrike, with the last in early April. **Common Raven** continues to increase as a breeder throughout the area. A pair nested this year at Lime Hollow Nature Center less than half a mile from the city limits of Cortland.

Once again, **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard on nesting grounds in late May in the Pharsalia area. Other than in Delaware County along the edges of the Catskills, the Pharsalia area is the only place in Region 4 where Swainson's Thrush can be found nesting. Many typically more northern breeding warblers can also be heard regularly in the Pharsalia area, along with Northern Goshawk,

Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Raven, both crossbills, Pine Siskin, and other northern specialties such as White-throated Sparrow.

This year, migration was marked by less than stellar warbler diversity. However, **Cerulean Warblers** were again observed on territory at the south end of Skaneateles Lake. A good bit of migrant songbird diversity was noted on 1-2 May. Three of the best songbird finds for the spring were **White-eyed Vireo, Orchard Oriole,** and **Golden-winged Warbler**, with the former two found in Tioga County and the latter in Otsego County in a area with a Blue-winged Warbler as well.

Birds with a more southern affinity, such as Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, and Red-bellied Woodpecker, appear to be still increasing in the area. Although most reports are still from river valleys, these species also are now reported more commonly above 1500 ft.

Overall the cone crop was pretty dismal, and finches were very hard to come by. There were some scattered Purple Finches in March, with many still feeding on a locally fair to good white ash crop, and more migrating in during April; two Pine Siskin reports; and just a few scattered Type 1 Red Crossbills in typical Chenango County locations. A recent assessment of this year's cone crop also looks like a poor year, the worst since at least 2001 and the first back-to-back very poor crops in at least 12 years or more. This is not surprising to this writer, given how asynchronous the cone crops have been the past 3-4 years. I suspect this is nature's way of re-regulating the cycle back to a more typical alternating biennial good-bad-good cone crop cycle. The very dry spring with a very early mid-April leaf-out and several late frosts in May have also likely contributed to this year's crop being quite poor. With that said, I did however find two flocks of Type 1 Red Crossbills in early August in the only two areas that had fair newly developing white spruce cone crops. Singing birds were present at one location in German, Chenango County. Stay tuned, since next year should line up to be a good-excellent cone crop, barring any weird unforeseen climatic conditions.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BCC – Binghamton Country Club; BHL – Buck Horn Lake OTSE; BPd – Boland Pond; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve; CVSP – Chenango Valley State Park; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center; GP – Greenwood Park, BROO; LHNC – Lime Hollow Nature Center; ML – Mirror Lake, TIOG; NuH – Nuthatch Hollow, BROO; OtL – Otsego Lake, OTSE; PharsWMA – Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area; RivR – River Rd., Endwell BROO; SkanL – Skaneateles Lake; UL – Upper Lisle; WCM – West Corners Marsh BROO; WPR – Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** sev flocks early Mar.
**Brant:** Dorchester Park May 19, late date.
**Wood Duck:** max & arr 9 TioR 11 Mar.
**Gadwall:** arr Bpd 11 Mar.
**Am. Wigeon:** arr Bpd 11 Mar.
**Am. Black Duck:** dozens of reports; numerous until early April.
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr Endwell Rd 12 Mar; breeding at Bpd.
**N. Shoveler:** arr Bpd 22 Mar.
**N. Pintail:** 4 arr Bpd early Mar.
**Green-winged Teal:** arr Bpd 11 Mar; several reports.
**Canvasback:** arr BPd 11 Mar; sev reps BROO.
**Redhead:** few reports BROO.
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr Bpd 5 Mar; max 223 Preble CORT 18 Mar; last end of Apr.
**Greater Scaup:** Hillcrest Pit 19 May; only report, late!
**Lesser Scaup:** 3 arr WPR 8 Mar; few reports.
**Long-tailed Duck:** 2 Mirror Lake Owego 19 Mar.
**White-winged-Scoter:** one Murphy's TIOG 12 May.
**Bufflehead:** sev reports.
**Com. Goldeneye:** TioR 8 Mar, only report.
**Hooded Merganser:** many reports; breeding at many beaver ponds scattered thru Region.
**Com. Merganser:** max 50+ TioR Rd Apr; breeding along rivers.
**Com. Loon:** Cole Park 1 May.
**Pied-billed Grebe:** pair breeding BPd; 6 reports.
**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Vestel Mar 25; reports from UL and Hillcrest Pits Apr & May; breeding in area yet?
**Am. Bittern:** Lily Lake Bog CVSP 13 Apr.
**Green Heron:** arr Richford 1 May.
**Turkey Vulture:** arr Maine BROO 1 Mar; many reports early Mar.

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr BPd 28 Mar.
**Bald Eagle:** 22 migrating thru Hawk Watches east of Otsego Lake Mar; nesting along SusqR, TioR, and other areas.
**N. Harrier:** 6 reports; few breeders.
**Cooper's Hawk:** becoming a common city/village nester.
**N. Goshawk:** pr nesting Heiberg SUNY-ESF Forest CORT Apr; pir North Rd Phar 21 Mar; pr King Rd BROO 10 May.
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr BROO, OSTE, CORT, CHEN 10-25 Mar; several pairs throughout Reg and appears to now be well established in state lands in several counties.
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr sev counties ~ 15 Apr; also well established in many state forests throughout Region.
**Rough-legged Hawk:** few reports; last Arnold Rd 6 Mar; a down year.
**Golden Eagle:** 79 migrating thru Hawk Watches east of Otsego Lake Mar; many rep during Mar & Apr; well-established migr throughout Reg.
**Am. Kestrel:** few wintering lingerers; influx of migr end Mar; still fairly well established as a breeder despite lower wintering numbers.

**Merlin:** prs Binghamton, Cortland, Oneonta, Cooperstown Apr; other sightings away from cities; continues to expand.
**Peregrine Falcon:** breeding pair Binghamton copulating Mar; one WPR 8 Mar.
**Virginia Rail:** arr BPd 2 Apr, breeds; UL May.
**Sora:** arr 3 Bpd 2 May, early.
**Am. Coot:** single Bpd thru May.
**Black-bellied Plover:** Dorchestor Park 29 May, only report.
**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 River Rd 10 May; 1 Murphy's 10 May; max 12 Murphy's 12 May.
**Killdeer:** arr beginning Mar.
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr UL 24 Apr.
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Ansom Rd 2 May; max 10 Brick Pond Owego 7 May; 10+ rep.
**Greater Yellowlegs:** Bpd April 17; 3 rep.
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Otsego 6 Apr; only 5 rep.
**Least Sandpiper:** arr Endwell Rd 6 May; max 25 Murphy's 12 May; 6+ other rep.
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Endwell River Rd 10 May.
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Jones Park 5 May.
**Dunlin:** 2 Murphy's 12 May.
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Barker BROO 2 Apr; few reports.
**Am. Woodcock:** arr TIOG 12 Mar.
**Bonaparte's Gull:** Dorchester Park May 16, only report.
**Caspian Tern:** UL 4 Apr.
**Black Tern:** 2 River Rd Endwell 16 May.
**Com. Tern:** UL 25 Apr.
**Forster's Tern:** 1 River Rd Endwell 16 May.

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Richford 7 May.
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Cole Park TIOG 1 May.
**Barred Owl:** West Burlington 19 Mar.
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** West Burlington 19 Mar and one Glen Aubrey.
**Chimney Swift:** BROO 30 Apr.
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr OTSE 5 May.
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** early Cort 1 Apr; increasing rep after 5 Apr.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr CVSP 17 May; increasing rep after 25 May.
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Aqua Terra TIOG 15 May; increasing rep after 24 May.
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr UL 16 May; increasing rep after 22 May.
Least Flycatcher: **arr Davenport 1 May.**
**E. Phoebe:** arr BROO 21 Mar.
**Great-crested Flycatcher:** arr Apalachin 10 May; several rep after 12 May.
**E. Kingbird:** arr BROO 2 May; increasing rep after 10 May.
**N. Shrike:** 3 scattered rep; not common this past winter; last 12 Mar.
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Bing 30 Apr; increasing rep after 5 May; many reports.
**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** 11 May 11 Parsons Rd (JonW), rare!
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Scott 9 Apr; increasing rep after 22 Apr.
**Warbling Vireo:** arr King St Bing 30 Apr; increasing rep after 2 May.
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr BROO 2 May.
**Fish Crow:** rep of breeding from Endwell, Bing, Owego, Vestal, & Union.
**Com. Raven:** max 20+ Pharslia CHEN Mar; nested LHNC within half mile of city limits of Cortland; widespread and increasing as a breeder and resident throughout and also expanding into river valleys.
**Purple Martin:** may no longer nest in Region.
**Tree Swallow:** arr UL 19 Mar; "big numbers" ~1 Apr.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr River Rd Endwell 6 Apr.
**Bank Swallow:** arr Bing 2 Apr.
**Cliff Swallow:** arr Rte 12 Agway BROO 6 May; nesting colony w ~15 nests Preble CORT May; ~6 nests Port Watson Bridge Cort May.
**Barn Swallow:** arr Whitney Pt 11 Apr.
**Tufted Titmouse:** increasing nester along many river valleys of Region <1500'.
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** widespread throughout high elevation state forests.
**Brown Creeper:** widespread scattered rep; birds migrating and heard thru Apr.
**Carolina Wren:** nesting along many of the major river valleys in Region and smaller ravines <1300ft.
**Marsh Wren:** BPd 9 May, where nesting.
**House Wren:** arr OTSE 20 Apr.
**Winter Wren:** fairly common after mid Apr in state forests.
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** scarce early Apr; incr later at high elevation spruce plantations.
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Bing 2 Apr; many rep after 12 Apr.
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr CVSP 16 Apr; local afterwards along larger low elevation river valleys.
**E. Bluebird:** sev rep Mar; increasingly common after March.
**Veery:** arr Cort 5 May; incr rep after 5 May.
**Swainson's Thrush:** breeders returned to Phars WMA late May.
**Hermit Thrush:** arr BROO 16 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr Davenport 1 May; widespread 10 May thru.
**Gray Catbird:** arr Cort 1 May, late arrival.
**N. Mockingbird:** "few" overwintering birds Owego & Bing; at least 1 Cort; migr arr April.
**Brown Thrasher:** arr W. Burlington 3 Apr; increasing rep late Apr.
**Am. Pipit:** arr BROO ~1 Apr; few reports.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr BROO 30 May; widespread many reports.
**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** DELA 2 May (JMu); OTSE 22 May.
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr BROO 11 May; few reports.
**Nashville Warbler:** arr & max 6 Richford 1 May; many reports after 2 May.
**N. Parula:** arr Cort 6 May; 6 rep.
**Yellow Warbler:** arr BROO 30 Apr; Sidney and several other locations after 1 May.
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Davenport 2 May; several reports after 10 May.
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Richford 1 May.
**CAPE MAY WARBLER:** arr BROO 11 May; 3 rep.
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr BROO 30 Apr.
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Oneonta 12 Apr.
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr OTSE 30 Apr.
**Blackburnian Warbler**: arr Cort 2 May; several reports 2 May.
**Pine Warbler:** two arr Round Top 4 Apr; breeding locations increasing.
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Dimmock Rd 2 May; local and well established breeder along southern tier.
**Palm Warbler:** arr Looking Glass Pond 18 April; few rep.
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** BROO 13 May, only report.
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Dorchester park 8 May; only 8 rep.
**CERULEAN WARBLER:** arr Glimmerglass Park 11 May (MY); max 4 SkanL May.
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Treadwell 18 April; few rep.
**Am. Redstart:** arr BROO 2 May; better numbers this year than last.
**Ovenbird:** arr Richford 1 May, incr 2 May.
**N. Waterthrush:** arr BPd 1 May; 6 rep
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Truxton 11 Apr; many rep 120 Apr thru.
**Mourning Warbler:** arr W. Burlington 5 May; max 5 Scott 20 May; fairly widespread uncommon breeder in Region.
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr sev loc 1 May.
**Hooded Warbler:** arr King St 10 May; scarce breeder in Reg except for CORT.
**Canada Warbler:** arr UL 11 May; few reports.

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr BROO 24 Mar, early or late local winter lingerer; many rep 16 Apr thru.
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 5 OTSE 21 Mar; last CORT ~1 Apr; numbers appeared down again.
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr UL 4 Apr.
**Field Sparrow:** arr Dorchester Park Park 24 Mar, early and perhaps lingering wintering bird; many rep 16 Apr thru.
**Vesper Sparrow:** Cort 7 May.
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr BPd 3 Apr.
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** King St 19 May.
**Fox Sparrow:** arr Richford 21 Mar; sev rep thru first half Apr.
**Song Sparrow:** arr TIOG 8 Mar; max 20 BPd 25 Mar.
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** no reports.
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr BPd 3 Apr.
**White-throated Sparrow:** overwintered in small numbers at sev loc; nests at several higher elevation areas CHEN, DELA.
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Smithboro TIOG 13 Apr; last mid May.
Snow Bunting**: max 75+ CORT early Mar; last mid Mar.**
Scarlet Tanager: **arr 4 Jones Park 2 May.**
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr BROO 30 Apr; sev loc after 2 May.
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Cort 6 May; inc 10 May thru.
**Bobolink:** arr Treadwell 23 Apr; inc mid May thru.
**E. Meadowlark:** arr OTSE 4 Apr; inc early Apr.
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr UL 19 Mar; few reports Apr, no big numbers.
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** a few overwintered CORT; "many" arr TIOG mid Mar.
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Bing 30 Apr.
**ORCHARD ORIOLE:** Bing 2 May (JonW).
**Purple Finch:** arr 2-6 early Mar sev loc; inc 10 Apr; widespread breeding behavior May above 1000'.
**House Finch:** small breeding numbers in towns, hamlets, and farms.
**White-winged Crossbill:** male at feeder Cort 4 Apr.
**RED CROSSBILL:** few CHEN (MY), very bad cone crop this year; Type 1 CHEN early Aug (MY), nesting.
**Pine Siskin:** 2 reports TIOG mid Apr.
**Evening Grosbeak:** no rep.
**Am. Goldfinch:** 20-40+ across Region Mar-Apr, average numbers.

# REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The spring season was very warm and quite dry with little snow. In March the temperature averaged 40.5° F, 6.9° above normal, with 2.54" of precipitation, 0.48" below normal. The April averages were 51.8°, 6.5° above normal, with 0.84" of precipitation, 2.55" below normal. The average temperature in May was 61.1°, 4.0° above normal, with 2.87" of precipitation, 0.52" below normal. There was only a trace of snow for the season over most of the Region, and at most there was five inches in the Adirondacks on 9 May which melted during that day. Snow was gone in most areas by 13 March, and ice out on Oneida Lake occurred 21-22 March, while Big Moose Lake was the last of our Adirondack lakes to become ice free on 4 April. The dry spring left Stillwater Reservoir about three feet below normal and natural, undammed lakes in the Adirondacks down a foot or more. Leaf-out was generally thought to be 10 to 14 days ahead schedule. A big problem with early leaves, other than hiding warblers, is subsequent frost. There were two frost events in northern Herkimer County on 11 and 13 May, which killed the leaves on the beech trees as well as much of the fruit that was in blossom at that time.

Five **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were reported by James Vrooman of Brewerton on the last day of the season and were subsequently seen and photographed that same day by several birders. The ducks departed in the evening and were again seen briefly several miles down the Oneida River before they flew on. There was no evidence of the birds having been escapes, so, if accepted by NYSARC, they would be a first state record of this expanding and very mobile species. Eurasian Wigeon and Cackling Goose were other less common waterfowl species this season.

The weather started to warm in the middle of February, and many wetlands had opened somewhat in the first week of March, allowing waterfowl to move into the Region. Passage was often quite swift, as March continued to be warm, further opening areas to our north. There was a big Snow Goose and Canada Goose flight past Derby Hill on 14 March, about ten days earlier than normal. Tundra Swans probably moved right through in early March as well, since there were only two reports, one a migrating flock. There were spring record counts for all three scoter species, for Long-tailed Ducks migrating on Oneida Lake, and for Red-necked Grebe on Lake Ontario.

Few Sandhill Cranes were reported this season, with only three at Derby Hill, one in Madison County, and two seen at Howland Island. Maybe a one-time anomaly? The hawk flight at Derby Hill was disappointing, with generally low numbers for most species. A leading theory is that the chilly 2009 summer in most of eastern Canada, which curtailed shorebird breeding, did the same for raptors.

The late May shorebird flight went right over us since the light winds and mild weather did nothing to force them to land. Two Whimbrel were seen this spring, and a Wilson's Phalarope put down briefly in a small wetland. Iceland and Glaucous Gulls lingered into early March, while Lesser Black-backed Gulls were being seen into late April. There was a spring record flight of Bonaparte's Gulls on Oneida and Skaneateles Lakes. Two Little Gulls and two **Parasitic Jaegers** were also seen migrating along Oneida Lake. The jaegers were only the second and third spring records for the species.

Common Nighthawk numbers didn't improve this spring, as the high count at Derby Hill was only eight with a scattered handful elsewhere. Migrant owls were scarce, with a single Long-eared Owl seen along Lake Ontario and no Short-eared or Northern Saw-whet Owls, although two of the latter species were encountered on territory on the Tug Hill. Red-headed Woodpecker returned in early May, and there was a slight increase in sightings over the past year.

No one reported Yellow-bellied Flycatcher this spring, and the other late migrants such as Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, and Gray-cheeked Thrush were barely noted. Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers came in with the south winds during the first three days of April, and a record early Cliff Swallow was photographed in the Tug Hill at that time.

The typical early push of Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers was delayed or simply missed, but warbler variety along Lake Ontario was good over the first half of May. The largest wave of migrants came on 14 May, with the most Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers reported then. Orange-crowned Warbler was missed, and there were few Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers, with several observers mentioning that the two species seemed especially scarce.

Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from most breeding sites, while the few Clay-colored Sparrows were transients. Besides the warblers, the 14 May wave also brought large numbers of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, late for a major influx of those species. Finch numbers were quite low this spring, with no Pine Grosbeaks or Common Redpolls and three or fewer reports for Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak. Except for the latter species, which is declining in the state, the other species were near the low points of their cyclical irruptions. Purple Finch was quite common in some areas but apparently scarce over much of the Region.

For the season, a total of 236 species was reported, about six species below the recent 10-year average. Highlights were **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, Eurasian Wigeon, Black Vulture, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Little Gull, **Parasitic Jaeger,** Red Crossbill, and White-winged Crossbill.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Andrew Van Norstrand, Tim Whitens, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Bvlle – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GLSP – Green Lakes State Park; HI – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; NS – Noyes Sanctuary, New Haven; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; RPPB – Rome Pitch Pine Bog; SB – Sunset Bay Park, Scriba; SCH – T Schroeppel; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; StMC – Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

## DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

| Species | Arrival | Max | Max Date | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Turkey Vulture** | 6 Mar | 2338 | 2 Apr | 11,655 |
| **Osprey** | 25 Mar | 41 | 1 May | 280 |
| **Bald Eagle** | 8 Mar | 29 | 22 May | 273 |
| **No. Harrier** | 8 Mar | 35 | 1 Apr | 273 |
| **Sharp-sh. Hawk** | 11 Mar | 199 | 2 May | 1772 |
| **Cooper's Hawk** | 8 Mar | 28 | 2 Apr | 179 |
| **No. Goshawk** | 6 Mar | 2 | 4 dates | 17 |
| **Red-sh. Hawk** | 10 Mar | 42 | 2 Apr | 321 |
| **Broad-wng. Hawk** | 13 Apr | 2556 | 30 Apr | 11,212 |
| **Red-tailed Hawk** | 2 Mar | 712 | 2 Apr | 3455 |
| **Rough-lgd. Hawk** | 9 Mar | 24 | 1 Apr | 112 |
| **Golden Eagle** | 9 Mar | 8 | 2 Apr | 34 |
| **Am. Kestrel** | 11 Mar | 21 | 3 Apr | 143 |
| **Merlin** | 19 Mar | 2 | 1, 24 Apr | 22 |
| **Peregrine Falcon** | 16 Mar | 4 | 2 Apr | 14 |
| **Total, inc. unid.** | | | | **29,765** |

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:** 5 Brewerton 31 May (Jim Vrooman, BP, ph, NYSARC), first state record pending approval.
**Snow Goose:** max 77,500 DH 14 Mar; 2 Sauquoit 11 May.
**Brant:** arr OneiL 1 May; max 2035 OneiL 17 May; 7597 total for May.
**Cackling Goose:** T Onondaga 8 Mar, only report.
**Canada Goose:** max 55,000 DH 14 Mar.
**Mute Swan:** max 18 FH 28 Apr.
**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 FH 23 Mar; 4 TR 15 Apr; 2 Volney 18 May.
**Tundra Swan:** 2 Fulton 9 Mar; 6 DH 12 Mar.
**Wood Duck:** arr DH 10 Mar.
**Gadwall:** max 25 DH 10 Mar.
**Eurasian Wigeon:** OneiL 20-31 Mar (BP, mob).
**Am. Wigeon:** max 83 OneiL 31 Mar.
**Am. Black Duck:** max 250 DH 10 Mar.
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr SCH 27 Mar; 3 UM 11 Apr; max 4 per day.
**N. Shoveler:** arr Elbridge 2 Mar; Young L 27 Apr, rare HERK.
**N. Pintail:** max 100 HI 10 Apr.
**Green-winged Teal:** max 85 OneiL 31 Mar.

**Canvasback:** max 16 OnonL 7 Mar; 2 OneiL 22 Mar.
**Redhead:** max 120 OnonL 7 Mar.
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 430 OneiL 22 Mar.
**Greater Scaup:** max 950 OneiL 22 Mar.
**Lesser Scaup:** max 2000 North Bay OneiL 13 Apr.
**Surf Scoter:** arr OneiL 4 Apr; max 40 OneiL 6 May, spring record.
**White-winged Scoter:** max 405 OneiL 6 May, spring record.
**Black Scoter:** arr 2 OneiL 7 Apr; max 14 OneiL 6 May, spring record.
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 569 OneiL 13 Apr, spring record.
**Bufflehead:** max 150 OneiL 13 Apr.
**Com. Goldeneye:** 110 OnonL 7 Mar.
**Hooded Merganser:** max 175 DH 10 Mar.
**Com. Merganser:** max 230 Fulton 21 Mar.
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 230 OneiL 17 Apr.
**Ruddy Duck:** max 21 OnonL 11 Mar.
**N. Bobwhite:** 2 SL 11 May, released.
**Red-throated Loon:** arr DH 16 Apr; max 10 OneiL 17 Apr.
**Com. Loon:** max 177 OneiL 30 Apr; 5 pr Woodhull L 4 May.
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 6 per day, breeding locations.
**Horned Grebe:** max 15 LOL 20 Mar; 14 OneiL 13 Apr.
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 105 LOL T Sterling 21 Mar, spring record; 85 OneiL 30 Mar to 6 May.
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 320 OneiL 17 May.
**Am. Bittern:** arr WM 8 Apr; 3 Verona 21 May.
**Least Bittern:** Volney 15 Apr, only report.
**Great Egret:** SPd 3 Apr; Oswego 11 May; Oneida 21 May; T Onondaga 22 May.
**Green Heron:** arr CM 22 Apr.
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Skan 12 Apr, only report.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Black Vulture:** singles DH 24 Mar, 2 and 8 Apr.
**Osprey:** arr Kirkville 24 Mar.
**N. Goshawk:** Oneida 24 May.
**Golden Eagle:** Erieville 16 Apr.
**Merlin:** 2 Camillus 1 May; Oneida 21 May.
**Peregrine Falcon:** SL 6 May; pr & 4 y Syr 12 Apr; OneiL 16 Apr.
**Virginia Rail:** arr SCH 9 Apr.
**Sora:** arr SCH 18 Apr.
**Com. Moorhen:** arr Volney 25 Apr; max 22 Volney 4 May.
**Am. Coot:** OnonL 7 Mar; pair UM 4 Apr.
**Sandhill Crane:** Woodman Pd 21 March; 2 HI 6 May; DH 16, 22 Apr, 5 May.
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 7 SPd 27 May.
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 9 Skan 27 May.
**Killdeer:** arr Brewerton 7 Mar.
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr Skan 23 Apr.
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Skan 19 Apr; max 9 Skan 6 May.
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr WM 4 Apr; max 8 OneiL 30 Apr.
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr New Haven 24 Apr; max 14 SPd 6 May.
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr Fulton 21 Apr; max 4 Fulton 22 May.
**Whimbrel:** OneiL 6 May; SPd 22 May.
**Sanderling:** arr FH 15 May; max 4 SPd 30 May.
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr New Haven 14 May; max 5 Verona 23 May.
**Least Sandpiper:** arr New Haven 2 May; max 30 Verona 23 May.
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr SL 8 Apr; max 11 SL 10 Apr.
**Dunlin:** arr Cicero 6 May; max 14 SPd after 25 May.
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr SCH 20 Mar; max 25 SL 14 Apr.
**Am. Woodcock:** arr TR 8 Mar.
**Wilson's Phalarope:** SCH 4 May (AVN, ph).
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr OneiL 4 Apr; max 1059 OneiL (BP); 454 Skan L 13 Apr (KB), spring high counts.
**Little Gull:** OneiL 13 Apr, 3 May.
**Iceland Gull:** max 4 Bville 3 Mar; Oswego 7 Mar.
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 Bville 2 Mar; Oswego 7 Mar; SL to 24 Apr; Skan 18 Apr.
**Glaucous Gull:** Bville thru 7 Mar; Oswego 7 Mar.
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 175 OnonL 13 Mar.
**Caspian Tern:** arr LOL 7 Apr; max 165 SPd 31 May.
**Black Tern:** arr OneiL 6 May; 3 OnonL 12 May; WPd 20 May, unusual sites; max 8 LOL 25 May.
**Com. Tern:** arr OneiL 26 Apr; max 172 OneiL 6 May.
**PARASITIC JAEGER:** OneiL 6, 17 May (BP), 2nd & 3rd spring records.

## PIGEONS -WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr 4 May; max 3 per day.
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr DH 2 May; to 4 per day.
**Long-eared Owl:** Noyes 13 Mar, only report.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Parish 23 Apr; Constantia 15 May.
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 8 DH 22 May; 2 Nelson Swamp 21 May.
**Whip-poor-will:** arr DH 1 May; max 4 per day Constantia.
**Chimney Swift:** arr DH 30 Apr.
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Hastings 2 May.
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr Skan 1 May; 2 Kirkland 6 May; 3 Noyes 16 May; Lysander after 24 May.
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 20 NMP 11 Apr.
**N. Flicker:** max 41 DH 3 Apr.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Cazenovia 21 May; Orwell 22 May.
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr widespread 14 May; max 3 per day.
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr WH 15 May; Camillus 26 May.
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Salisbury 10 May; max 3 per day.
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Skan 5 May; max 7 SCH 22 May.
**Least Flycatcher:** arr widespread 1 May; max 9 SB 14 May.
**E. Phoebe:** arr Salisbury 18 Mar.
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr widespread 1 May; max SB 8 May.
**E. Kingbird:** arr DH 30 Apr, max 14 LOL 14 May.
**N. Shrike:** 6 reports; last Salisbury 15 Apr.
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr LOL 8 May.
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr DeRuyter 10 Apr, early.
**Warbling Vireo:** arr StMC 30 Apr.
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Camden 11 May; CM 24 May.
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr DH 2 May.
**Blue Jay:** max 3860 DH 1 May.
**Fish Crow:** DH 5, 12, & 20 Apr; max 10 OnonL Apr-May.
**Com. Raven:** max 25 Big Moose 1 Mar.
**Horned Lark:** max 60 Elbridge 7 Mar.
**Purple Martin:** arr DH 21 Apr.
**Tree Swallow:** arr DH 11 Mar.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Bvlle 9 Apr.
**Bank Swallow:** arr SL 12 Apr.
**Cliff Swallow:** arr 2 Apr Tug Hill (JhL, ph), record early.
**Barn Swallow:** arr OnciL 7 Apr.
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 27 DH 3 Apr.
**Brown Creeper:** max 30 NMP 11 Apr.
**House Wren:** arr SFNS 21 Apr.
**Winter Wren:** 17 Mar GLSP, likely wintered; arr Fulton 30 Mar.
**Sedge Wren:** 2 WM 15 May, did not persist.
**Marsh Wren:** arr SCH 2 May.
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 12 StMC 11 Apr.
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr widespread 5 Apr; max 15 StMC 11 Apr.
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr NS 10 Apr.
**Veery:** arr NMP 2 May; max 24 SB 14 May.
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 2 Scriba 22 May, only report.
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr SB 7 May; max 5 SB 14 May.
**Hermit Thrush:** arr Adks 4 Apr.
**Wood Thrush:** arr GLSP 1 May.
**Gray Catbird:** arr Marcellus 25 May.
**Brown Thrasher:** arr CM 10 Apr; max 14 GLSP 10 May.
**Am. Pipit:** arr 8 DH 19 Mar; max 40 SL 8 Apr.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr widespread 1 May.
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr LOL 1 May.
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** TR 13 May, only report.
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Noyes Sanctuary 2 May; max 3 per day, low numbers.
**Nashville Warbler:** arr FH 30 Apr; 12 SB 14 May; max 21 RPPB 17 May. breeding location.
**N. Parula:** arr StMC 30 Apr; max 7 SB 14 May.
**Yellow Warbler:** arr Phoenix 23 Apr; max 30 per day LOL.
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr SFNS 1 May; max 7 SB 14 May.
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr StMC 1 May; max 18 SB 14 May.
**Cape May Warbler:** arr SB 5 May; max 8 SB 14 May.
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr StMC 1 May; max 18 SB 9 May.
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 40 per day LOL early May.
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 24 Apr; max 7 SB 10 May.
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr WH 1 May; migrants to 4 per day LOL.
**Pine Warbler:** arr TR 3 Apr.
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Fulton 13 May; Orwell 17 May; 2 Pompey 30 May.
**Palm Warbler:** arr Marcellus 23 Apr; max 7 per day SB & NS.
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr SFNS 11 May; max 7 SB 15 May.
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Fabius 7 May; max 7 SB 22 May.
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Cato 5 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr FH 30 Apr; max 12 SB 14 May.
**Am. Redstart:** arr DH 1 May; max 30 SB 14 May.
**Prothonotary Warbler:** arr WM 10 May.
**Ovenbird:** arr TR 1 May.
**N. Waterthrush:** arr WM 22 Apr.
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Pompey 18 Apr.
**Mourning Warbler:** arr WH 7 May.
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr widespread 2 May.
**Hooded Warbler:** arr SFNS 7 May; max 6 SB 14 May.
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr NS 14 May; max 2 per day, few reports.
**Canada Warbler:** arr TR 6 May; max 7 RPPB 17 May.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr TR 4 Apr; max 24 GLSP 10 May.
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 29 Salisbury 16 Mar; last Salisbury 17 Apr.
**Chipping Sparrow:** Camillus 13 Mar, likely wintered; arr SFNS 27 Mar.
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Sunset Bay 14, 18 May; Marcellus 28 May.
**Field Sparrow:** arr SFNS 17 Mar, early.
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr VB 2 Apr; max 8 Scriba 9 Apr.
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Tully 27 Mar.
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Marcellus 25 Apr.
**Fox Sparrow:** wintered W Winfield; arr TR 23 Mar; max 8 TR 4 Apr.
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr DH 3 May; max 4 SB-NS 14 May.
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr 1 CM Apr.
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 120 SB-NS 14 May.
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr widespread 1 May; max 170 SB-NS 14 May.
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 66 Salisbury 30 Mar.
**Snow Bunting:** max 100 W Winfield 1 Mar; last 2 Camden 10 Mar.
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Camillus 1 May.
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Camden 28 Apr; max 15 SB 8 May.
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Hastings 2 May.
**Bobolink:** arr DH 30 Apr.
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Skan 20 Mar.
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 4 WM 25 Mar.
**Orchard Oriole:** arr DH 2 May; max 5 GLSP 25 May.
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr N Syr 29 Apr; max 52 DH 5 May.
**Purple Finch:** max 21 Salisbury 26 Apr.
**Red Crossbill:** 2 Fabius 20 Mar (MY); 2 Orwell 17 May (RR).
**White-winged Crossbill:** Jerseyfield Road, Salisbury 12 May (LH).
**Pine Siskin:** 2 Skan 9 Apr; 2 Salisbury 15 Apr.
**Evening Grosbeak:** 4 Salisbury 26 Apr, only report.

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## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Spring was exceptionally warm and dry, with all three months averaging warmer and with considerably less precipitation than normal. Watertown's mean monthly temperatures for both March and April were more than 6° F above average, and May's mean was 3.8° above normal. March and April combined saw 2.9 inches of precipitation relatively evenly distributed between the months, which is about half of normal. May was a little wetter, but the 2.5 inches that fell was still 0.9 inches below average.

Given the warm spring, it shouldn't be too surprising that many species arrived earlier than normal, and the overall mean arrival date nearly matched the record early arrival date set in 2009. Ten species set or tied record early arrival

dates, all but two of which normally arrive during the month of April. An eleventh species, Palm Warbler, may well have arrived at a record early date as well, but the earliest visit to the Region's traditional breeding locations that I am aware of was on 12 April, when Joan Collins found large numbers of territorial males at Massawepie Mire, just three days later than the earliest date for which Palm Warbler has been reported in Region 6. Much as was the case in 2009, a warm spell in late April and early May brought a massive wave of migrants, with many species that normally arrive during the first 5-7 days of May appearing on 1 and 2 May.

The waterfowl migration held few surprises, with most species occurring in roughly typical numbers. An exception is Brant, which is often poorly documented in Region 6, but this year several flocks of overland migrants were reported from both Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties. What was thought to be a single unmarked Trumpeter Swan wandered around Canton and neighboring areas for much of the spring. As is the case for any unmarked Trumpeter Swan, it remains unclear whether this bird originated from the Ontario introduction program, was the offspring of pairs nesting in New York, or came from somewhere else. A Black Scoter at Fisher's Landing and several Ruddy Ducks at Perch River were nice finds, as these species often go unreported in Region 6 during spring.

The most unusual sighting of the season was made by Mike Stewart shortly after he moved to northern New York. On 13 April, while visiting Robert G. Wehle State Park, Mike saw two **American White Pelicans** flying north over Lake Ontario. White pelicans are nearly annual in Region 6 now, although virtually all sightings are of 1-2 individuals on a single day. Red-necked Grebes were well reported from sites on Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and inland marshes.

Relatively few raptors were present at the beginning of the season, as the past winter was not a big one for wintering birds of prey. The first Turkey Vultures appeared 6 March, slightly earlier than normal, and Northern Harriers began filtering back into the Region a few days later. One Golden Eagle was reported during each month, for a slightly higher than normal tally. Two new Merlin nesting sites on Fort Drum reflect the continued increase of this falcon's breeding population in northern New York. Snowy Owls were scarce this past winter, and I received just one report for the spring of a bird that appeared in Lewis County briefly.

Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Moorhen all arrived earlier than average. American Coots, another species not reported every spring, were at Perch River and Fort Drum. Sandhill Crane continues to increase Regionally, and all five reports that I received clearly involved migrating individuals. Unfortunately, I received no reports, either positive or negative, from the locations in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties where Sandhill Cranes summered during the past two years.

The only notable shorebird observation was a Wilson's Phalarope that Gerry Smith found on Point Peninsula. Phalaropes of any species are infrequently observed in Region 6, and unfortunately this particular individual

did not linger beyond the day of its discovery. Upland Sandpiper is noteworthy for its continued poor showing, as I received reports from only three locations this spring. The only good news regarding "Uppies" is that they haven't disappeared from the Region entirely. As in past years, I continue to be impressed by the number and diversity of shorebirds reported from Wolfe and Amherst Islands and other locations in Ontario and wonder how many birds might occur on some of the islands off Jefferson County but are missed by the lack of birders checking them. Low water levels on Lake Ontario through late May seemed to provide sufficient habitat for migrating shorebirds, but the few reports I received from El Dorado and elsewhere suggested that few shorebirds were present.

As mentioned previously, the passerine migration was early, but few notable songbirds were reported. Bohemian Waxwings were virtually absent all winter, so a flurry of sightings in late March and early April was a bit of a surprise. Otherwise there were no winter irruptives of note. The nearest to a rarity among passerines was an Orchard Oriole in Morristown, St. Lawrence County on 13 May, but this species has nested near Lake Ontario in Jefferson County for many years, where I received one report this May. I received only single reports of Philadelphia Vireo and Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers.

For the season I received reports of 216 species, down slightly from the previous two springs. Given that just four people account for more than 90% of the sightings that appear in a typical Region 6 report, it is possible that this season's low numbers resulted from one of these people having unusually little time to bird this spring. However, it was nice to see the arrival of a new birder to the area, as Mike Stewart picked up much of the slack and was responsible for many of the season's best sightings.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BRV – Black River Valley LEWI; CB – Chaumont Barrens Pres T Clayton JEFF; CCSP – Coles Creek SP T Louisville; CV – Cape Vincent JEFF; FL – Fisher's Landing, T Orleans JEFF; FD – Fort Drum Military Res; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature C, T Canton STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown; LWMA – Lakeview WMA T Ellisburg JEFF; MM – Massawepie Mire, Piercefield and Colton; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; PRWMA – Perch River WMA T Orleans JEFF; RWSP – Robert G. Wehle State Park T Henderson; SLR – Saint Lawrence River; SnPt – Snowshoe Point T Henderson; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA T Canton STLA; WB – Wilson's Bay T Cape Vincent.

## WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** arr Ellisburg 10 Mar; heavy movement 15 Mar; last Antwerp 8 May.
**Brant:** 290 ULLWMA 14 May; 195 Leray 21 May; 45 FD 28 May.
**Trumpeter Swan:** different locations Canton 19-24 Mar, 13 Apr, 30 Apr, & 10 May, thought to be same individual.
**Wood Duck:** arr Ellisburg 10 Mar.
**Am. Wigeon:** arr Ellisburg 10 Mar.
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr Ogdensburg 2 Apr.
**N. Shoveler:** arr Ogdensburg & PRWMA 2 Apr.
**N. Pintail:** arr Ellisburg 10 Mar; max 225 BRV 10 Apr.
**Green-winged Teal:** arr Lyme 11 Mar.
**Redhead:** arr FL 12 Mar.
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr Ellisburg 20 Mar; max 211 Ellisburg 29 Mar.
**Greater Scaup:** max 2000 Lyme 19 Mar.
**Lesser Scaup:** max 75 PRWMA 15 Apr.
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 410 CV 6 Apr.
**White-winged Scoter:** 9 CV 2 Mar.
**Black Scoter:** FL 12 Mar.
**Bufflehead:** max 44 SLR Ogdensburg 2 Apr; last Ogdensburg & PtPen 9 May.
**Com. Goldeneye:** last PtPen 1 May.
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 420 CV 6 Apr.
**Ruddy Duck:** 2 ULLWMA 7 Apr; ULLWMA 12 Apr; 2-5 per day PRWMA 12 Apr - 26 May.
**N. Bobwhite:** Theresa 28 Mar, certainly a released bird.
**Com. Loon:** arr SLR Ogdensburg 2 Apr.
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr ULLWMA 28 Mar.
**Horned Grebe:** 3 FD 16 Apr; 3 PRWMA 16 Apr; 3 ULLWMA 17 Apr.
**Red-necked Grebe:** Ellisburg 29 Mar; 2 ULLWMA 3 Apr; 2 RWSP 4 Apr; 7 CCSP 4 Apr; PtPen 12 Apr; 2 PRWMA 15 Apr; 4 SLR Ogdensburg 21 Apr; SLR Massena 8 May; ULLWMA 14 May.
**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** 2 RWSP 13 Apr (MS!).
**Am. Bittern:** arr PRWMA 6 Apr.
**Least Bittern:** arr FD 24 May.
**Great Blue Heron:** arr Lyme 19 Mar.
**Great Egret:** SLR Ogdensburg 1 May.
**Green Heron:** arr Canton 3 May.
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr PRWMA 24 Apr.
**Turkey Vulture:** arr Watertown 6 Mar.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr PRWMA 2 Apr, tied record early arrival date.
**N. Harrier:** arr CV 9 Mar.
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Theresa & FD 18 Mar.
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr FD 15 Apr.
**Rough-legged Hawk:** last Pamelia 7 May.
**Golden Eagle:** Deferiet 30 Mar; FD 1 Apr; Oswegatchie 1 May.
**Merlin:** two new nesting locations FD.
**Virginia Rail:** arr FD 8 Apr, record early.
**Sora:** arr ULLWMA 30 Apr.
**Com. Moorhen:** arr PRWMA 15 Apr.
**Am. Coot:** 2 PRWMA 6 - 15 Apr; FD 13 May
**Sandhill Crane:** PRWMA 2 Apr (MS); 2 Alexandria 3 Apr (DS); Colton 3 May (JC); Canton 9 May (MM); ICNC 16 May.
**Black-bellied Plover:** 3 ED 16 May; max 10 ED 26 May.
**Semipalmated Plover:** FD 24 May; ED 26 & 28 May.
**Killdeer:** arr Ellisburg & FD 10 Mar.
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr Massena 8 May.
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Louisville 8 May; max 3 FD 10 May.
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 PRWMA 5 Apr; Potsdam 28 Apr.
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 PRWMA 30 Apr; 5 PtPen 11 May.
**Upland Sandpiper:** migrant over Barnes Corners 17 Apr; CV 4 May; 2 FD 5 May; Hounsfield 18 May.
**Least Sandpiper:** 10 ED 16 May; 7 Dekalb 30 May.
**Dunlin:** 6 ED 16 May; ED 26 May.
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 2 ED 26 May.
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Potsdam 24 Mar.
**Am. Woodcock:** arr Canton 15 Mar.
**Wilson's Phalarope:** PtPen 11 May (GS, MS, photos!).
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 19 CV 6 Apr.
**Iceland Gull:** CV thru 5 May.
**Caspian Tern:** arr CB 9 Apr.
**Black Tern:** arr WB 1 May.
**Com. Tern:** arr LWMA 20 Apr.

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** FD 24 May, only report.
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr FD 14 May.
**Snowy Owl:** Copenhagen 14 Mar, only report.
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Hopkinton 13 May.
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr FD 24 May.
**Whip-poor-will:** arr RWSP 1 May; Tug Hill 24 May
**Chimney Swift:** arr Canton 23 Apr.
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr FD 11 May.
**Belted Kingfisher:** arr FD 9 Mar.
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr FD 5 May; RWSP 16 May.
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr KC 19 Mar, record early; next report Canton 2 Apr.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** several reports from MM.
**N. Flicker:** arr FD 25 Mar.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** migrant CB 22 May; 2 Dead Creek Piercefield 27 May; 4 locations Wanakena 31 May.
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr ULLWMA 14 May.
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 2 MM 22 May, increased to 9 by 31 May.
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Horseshoe L bog 18 May.
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr FD 18 May.
**Least Flycatcher:** arr FD 5 May.
**E. Phoebe:** arr FD & Potsdam 1 Apr.
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr De Peyster 1 May.
**E. Kingbird:** arr Oswegatchie 1 May.
**N. Shrike:** last FD 8 Apr.
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Oswegatchie 1 May.
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr FD 15 Apr, record early.
**Warbling Vireo:** arr Oswegatchie 1 May.
**Philadelphia Vireo:** Morristown 23 May.
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr FD 10 May.
**Purple Martin:** arr Canton 3 Apr.
**Tree Swallow:** arr ULLWMA 20 Mar, record early.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr ICNC 10 Apr, tied record early arrival date.
**Bank Swallow:** arr Philadelphia 7 May.
**Cliff Swallow:** 12 arr PtPen 1 May.
**Barn Swallow:** arr Ogdensburg 7 Apr.
**Boreal Chickadee:** max 4 MM 12 Apr.
**Carolina Wren:** Canton 14 Mar; FD 18 Mar; Canton 7 Apr.
**House Wren:** arr CV 22 Apr.
**Winter Wren:** arr FD 1 Apr.
**Sedge Wren:** arr FD 24 May.
**Marsh Wren:** arr PRWMA 7 May.
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr FD 1 Apr; last migr FD 14 May.
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr CV 3 Apr; last ICNC 15 May.
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** South Sandy Creek 20 May; Red Lake 23 May; only reports.
**E. Bluebird:** arr Theresa 10 Mar.
**Veery:** arr ICNC 2 May.
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Hopkinton 13 May.
**Hermit Thrush:** arr FD 6 Apr.
**Wood Thrush:** arr CV 1 May.
**Gray Catbird:** arr Potsdam 1 May.
**N. Mockingbird:** Lyme 3 Apr.
**Brown Thrasher:** arr Morristown 18 Apr.
**Am. Pipit:** 30 Leray 22 Apr; 10 Lisbon 30 Apr; 85 Morristown 1 May.
**Bohemian Waxwing:** 57 Potsdam 25 & 29 Mar; 52 ULLWMA 28 Mar; 70+ Potsdam 3 Apr; last 12 Canton 4 Apr.
**Cedar Waxwing:** scarce before 20 Apr.

### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr FD 5 May.
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr FD 5 May.
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** arr Potsdam 2 May.
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr CV 14 May.
**Nashville Warbler:** arr ICNC & Potsdam 2 May.
**N. Parula:** arr SnPt 4 May.
**Yellow Warbler:** arr many loc 1 May.
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr ICNC 2 May.
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Ellisburg 10 May.
**Cape May Warbler:** Canton 15 May.
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr CV 1 May.
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr ICNC 10 Apr.
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr CV & Dekalb 5 May.
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr ICNC 2 May.
**Pine Warbler:** arr FD 6 Apr, record early.
**Prairie Warbler:** arr CB & FD 14 May.
**Palm Warbler:** At least 20 "Yellow" on territory MM 12 Apr; 2 "Western" arr Leray 6 May; 2 RWSP 8 May.
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** CV 14 May; ULLWMA 15 May.
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr PtPen 18 May.
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Dekalb 7 May.
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Morristown & Potsdam 1 May.
**Am. Redstart:** arr ICNC 2 May.
**Ovenbird:** arr CV 1 May.
**N. Waterthrush:** arr ICNC 25 Apr, tied record early arrival date.
**Louisiana Waterthrush:**
**Mourning Warbler:** arr ICNC 15 May.
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr ICNC 2 May.
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Ellisburg 10 May.
**Wilson's Warbler:** 2 Leray 21 May; 2 FD 21 May.
**Canada Warbler:** arr FD 10 May.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr FD 2 Apr.
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last ICNC 2 May (late).
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr FD 8 Apr.
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr FD 5 May; 2 Leray 6 May; 2 CV 14 May.
**Field Sparrow:** arr Lyme & Potsdam 3 Apr.
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr FD 6 Apr.
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr FD 1 Apr, record early.
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr FD 7 May.
**Henslow's Sparrow:** arr FD 5 May; 2 Dog Hill Road Orleans 22 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Canton 27 Mar.
**Song Sparrow:** arr CV & Canton 19 Mar.
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Morristown 13 May.
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr FD 1 Apr.
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr ICNC 10 Apr.
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Oswegatchie 1 May.
**Snow Bunting:** scarce after Feb.
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr SnPt 4 May.
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr ICNC 2 May.
**Indigo Bunting:** arr FD 7 May.
**Bobolink:** arr many locations 1 May.
**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr Ellisburg 10 Mar.
**E. Meadowlark:** arr CV 22 Mar.
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr ICNC 20 Mar; max 470 ICNC 10 Apr; last ICNC 2 May.
**Com. Grackle:** arr Ellisburg 10 Mar.
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr Canton 13 Mar.
**Orchard Oriole:** Morristown 13 May (JB); 2 PtPen 15 May (MS, photos!).
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Oswegatchie 1 May.
**Purple Finch:** largely absent until 13 Mar.
**Evening Grosbeak:** Watertown 31 Mar; 2 Clayton 2 May.

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## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Weather for the Adirondack-Champlain Region continued dry and warmer than normal for most of the period, with a few exceptions. Total snowfall for Inlet at the end of March was only 48.5", and that was all melted by 1 April with very little run off. Lows for several locations on 6 March, and for Saranac Lake and Inlet even to 27 March, were at 3-10° F. Then the heat wave hit in the first week of April, with high temperatures in the 70s and 80s across the Region. On 3 April, Saranac Lake recorded 84° and Inlet 82°, while Plattsburgh only reached 77° due to cooling from Lake Champlain. The ice went out of most lakes during that period, breaking early ice out dates for most lakes. Blue Mountain Lake was the last to go out in the western Adirondacks on 7 April. Thunderstorms hit Plattsburgh on 6 & 7 April, and rain fell on 19 other days that month. Yet on only 16 April was more than half an inch recorded for a day. Saranac Lake had snow on three days, 9, 10, & 11 April. Then the whole Region received a reality check on 28 April, when a Nor'easter came through dumping 6" to a foot of snow in the western Adirondacks and a foot to 17" in the High Peaks and Champlain Valley. May weather was just as fickle. Most of the month was cloudy, with some precipitation on a majority of the days but never more than a quarter of an inch. The real shocker was very cold temperatures on 8 and 13 May--21° in Saranac Lake and Inlet--and snow accumulation on 8 and 9 May. The leaves were all out and many fruiting trees and shrubs were in flower. These cold temperatures killed most of the beech leaves and flowers and those of many other hardwoods. It also killed many of the buds on the softwoods. By the end of the month many of the dead leaves had fallen, leaving arriving migrants with a bare forest and no place to hide. A couple of ninety year olds said they had never seen this before, so clearly it was a new experience for most of the

relatively short-lived passerines, and most of these birds had to find a new place to nest, many out of their normal habitat.

With the lack of rain and little snow-cover runoff, the lakes were at summer levels by the end of the period. Lake Champlain water levels started off at 96.2', which was the lowest for the season. It climbed to 99.2' on 18 April and then fell with the lack of rain fall to 96.7' at the end of the season.

The Crown Point Banding Station operated as usual, and the birds came pouring in right on schedule. This was the 35th consecutive year of operation for this bird migration monitoring station. We tallied 55 species and 533 individual birds banded, with 34 returns from previous years. The 100th bird species for the station was a male American Kestrel caught and banded on 10 May. The highest numbers banded were 221 Yellow-rumped Warblers, with most of these older birds banded in the first week of operation from 7-14 May. Other special species were Prairie and Golden-winged Warblers on 15 May and two "Western" Palm Warblers.

With the early period warm temperatures, there were many arrival records broken. In Clinton County alone, records were set for 12 species: Double-crested Cormorant, Eastern Kingbird, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pine Warbler, Canada Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole.

Other notable records for the season included: Tufted Duck near Ausable Point continuing from 19 February to 21 March, Ivory Gull at Rouses Point from 21 February into the season to 2 March, and Northern Hawk Owl at Champlain present since 13 November 2009 and last seen 6 March. Other less rare but interesting sightings were: Greater White-footed Goose at Chazy Riverlands on 14 April, four Barrow's Goldeneyes at Ausable River on 13 March, two Little Blue Herons at Chazy Riverlands from 24 April to 5 May, three Glossy Ibis at Chazy Riverlands from 19 April to 3 May, Red-necked and Eared Grebes at Raquette Lake on 15 April, and a pair of Orchard Orioles at the Crown Point Banding Station on 13 May, with the male banded and still on territory when we closed down on 23 May.

A total of 207 species was reported for the period, short of the record of 219 set in 1997.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Ausable Marsh; AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BTS – Browns Tract Stream; CP – Crown Point; CRL – Chazy Riverlands; ESFNew – ESF Newcomb; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Intervale Lowlands; LP – Lake Pleasant; NVIC – Newcomb VIC; NP – Noblewood Park; PSVIC – Paul Smiths VIC; Pl – Plattsburgh; Ptau – Point au Roche; RP – Rouses Point; SL – Saranac Lake; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; WB – Whallon's Bay; WFMH – Whiteface Memorial Highway; WP – Willsboro Point; Wi – Witherbee.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** CRL 14 Apr (JO), first spring record CLIN.
**Snow Goose:** AP 18 Mar (JL); IL 11 May (LM).
**Canada Goose:** max 100 AP 3 Mar (JR); SL 31 May (JD).
**Wood Duck:** Ptau 20 Mar (JH); AP 1 Apr (J&PT); max 4 IL 22 May (LM).
**Gadwall:** max 5 AM 22 Mar (NR), only report.
**Am. Wigeon:** AP 13 Mar (JO), only report.
**Am. Black Duck:** max 10 AP 3 Mar (JR); IL 10 May (LM); many other reports.
**Mallard:** max 20 AM 20 Mar (NR); 3 yng Keene 24 May (J&PT), many other reports.
**Blue-winged Teal:** AP 21 Mar (WS); CRL 31 May (BK,JO).
**N. Shoveler:** CRL 29 Apr (J&PT); CRL 1 May (TA).
**N. Pintail:** 30+ Chazy 23 Mar (WS); AP 13 Mar (JO).
**Green-winged Teal:** Lake Champlain-Chazy 29 Apr (J&PT); max 50 Chazy 23 Mar (WS).
**Canvasback:** AP 3 Mar (BK,CM), nice find.
**Redhead:** AP 3 Mar (BK,CM); CRL 1 May (TA,JO), also nice finds.
**Ring-necked Duck:** AP 3 Mar (J&PT); max 90 AM 22 Mar (NR).
**TUFTED DUCK:** AP thru 21 Mar (LF,BK,JL,CM,TA,EW), from 19 Feb.
**Greater Scaup:** CRL 25 Apr (BK,CM).
**Lesser Scaup:** max 500 AP 3 Mar (JR); CRL 26 May (BK).
**Bufflehead:** Westport 13 Mar (J&PT); max 38 AP 5 May (JO).
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 100 Westport 13 Mar (J&PT); PR 3 Mar (JH).
**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** max 4 AP 13 Mar (JO), great find.
**Hooded Merganser:** max 10 AP 3 Mar (JR); AP 4 Mar (GL); Algonquin Drive 24 Mar (B&LH).
**Com. Merganser:** Westport 13 Mar (J&PT); max 23 AP 3 Mar (JR).
**Red-breasted Merganser:** Ptau 14 Apr (JO); max 22 Ptau 1 May (JO); good birds.
**Ruddy Duck:** max 6 CRL 14 Apr, 1 May JO,TA).
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** CP 8 May (GL), only report.
**Ruffed Grouse:** max 4 LP (JD); sev other reports.
**Wild Turkey:** max 19 Inlet thru (GL), established.
**Com. Loon:** Long Lake 11 Apr (WL); Silver Lake 2 May (MM); max 4 Limekiln Lake 30 May (GL).
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Wickham Marsh 17 Apr (ET); Ptau 1 May (JH), only report.
**Horned Grebe:** WP 5 Mar (GL); max 10 Lake Abanake 16 Apr (M&WM).
**Red-necked Grebe:** CP 5 Mar (GL); 6 Ptau 14 Apr (JO); Raquette Lake 15 Apr (LB,JM); max 15 Lake Abanake 16 Apr (M&WM).
**EARED GREBE:** Raquette Lake 15 Apr (LB), great find.
**Double-crested Cormorant:** Plattsburgh Bay 3 Mar (MF), early CLIN; CP 14 May (JA); max 200 CP 15 May (GL).
**Am, Bittern:** Ausable WMA 23 May (J&PT); IL 5 Apr (LM).
**Great Blue Heron:** Pokomoonshine Mt 1 Apr (J&PT), nest building.
**Great Egret:** CRL 28 Apr (BK).
**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** CRL 24 Apr (J&PT,JO,BK), 3rd CLIN record; CRL 5 May (CM,T&DG,JLaz,YT), 4th CLIN record.
**Green Heron:** Point au Fer 5 May (JO).
**GLOSSY IBIS:** CRL 19 Apr (BK,CM,J&PT); CRL May (TA,JL,T&DG,,YT).

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Turkey Vulture:** Ausable Forks 31 Mar (WS).
**Osprey:** AM 4 Apr (J&PT); CP 9 May (GH, GL).

**Bald Eagle:** AP 3 Mar (GL); Long Lake 15 Mar (JEC); Tupper Lake 15 Mar (JEC); Coon Mt 3 Apr (J&PT).
**N. Harrier:** AP 2 Mar (BK,CM); CP 9 May (GL); Coon Mt 2 Apr (J&PT);
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** AP 21 Mar (BK,CM); Keene 1 Apr (J&PT).
**Cooper's Hawk:** Plattsburgh 10 Mar (BK,CM), nice find.
**N. Goshawk:** Long Lake 10 May (WL), good find.
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** IL 25 Mar (LM); Coon Mt 3 Apr (J&PT); Lake Alice 1 May (JO).
**Broad-winged Hawk:** Chubb River 24 Apr.
**Red-tailed Hawk:** Split Rock Forest 19 Mar (MM); Coon Mt 3 Apr (J&PT); max 4 CP 12 May (GH,GL,CW).
**Rough-legged Hawk:** CRL 6 Mar (SC), only report.
**Golden Eagle:** Coon Mountain 2 Apr (MM).
**Am. Kestrel:** max 3 Westport 22 Mar (J&PT); banded CP 10 May (TB,GH,GL), one hundredth species for station.
**Merlin:** APT 3 Mar (BK,CM); ESFN 1 May (J&PT); Paul Smith's College 6 Apr (YT).
**GYRFALCON:** Cascade Mtn, 6 Mar (JN).
**Peregrine Falcon:** Ptau 13 Mar (JO); IL 23 May (LM); CP 9 May (GL).
**Virginia Rail:** PT au Fer 30 Apr (JL); Ptau 16 May (JO), nice finds.
**Sora:** CRL 4 May (BK); CRL 27 May (BK,CM,JO).
**Com. Moorhen:** CRL 1 May (TA); 6 max CRL 23 May (BK,JO).
**Am. Coot:** CRL 26, 31 May (BK).
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 14 CRL 26 May (BK).
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 23 CRL 27 May (BK).
**Killdeer:** max6 CRL 1 May (TA).
**Spotted Sandpiper:** IL 2 May (LM); Hulls Falls Rd, Keene 24 May (J&PT); SL 31 May (JD).
**Solitary Sandpiper:** Lake Alice 1 May (JO); IL 15 May (LM); W. Branch Ausable, Keene 16 May (J&PT); Ptau 16 May (JO).
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 6 CRL 25 May (BK,CM).
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** CRL 29 Apr (J&PT); max 23 CRL 15 May (BK,CM).
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** CRL 15 May (JO); max 39 CRL 29 May (BK).
**Least Sandpiper:** max 50+ CRL 15 May (BK,JO).
**Dunlin:** CRL 15 May (BK); max 5 CRL 31 May (BK,JO).
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 14 CRL 25 May (BK).
**Wilson's Snipe:** Keene 3 Apr (J&PT); IL 21 Apr (LM).
**Am. Woodcock:** IL 2 May (LM); CP 7-23 May (GL), banded.
**IVORY GULL:** RP thru 2 Mar (T&DG,BK).
**Bonaparte's Gull:** Essex Ferry 7 May (GL); max 32 CRL 15 May (BK,JO).
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 600 Westport 27 Mar (J&PT),
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 4 WP 5 Mar (GL).
**Caspian Tern:** arr Wickham Marsh 1 May (JLat); max 3 CRL 31 May (BK,CM); CRL 15 May (BK,JO).
**Black Tern:** RP 4 May (T&DG); CRL 15 May (BK,JO).
**Com. Tern:** CRL 1 May (TA).

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove:** max 8 Wi thru (CW,MA); NVIC 6 Mar (C&TW).
**Great Horned Owl:** CP 10 May (GL), only report.
**NORTHERN HAWK OWL:** Champlain 2 Mar-6 Mar (T&DG), present since 30 Nov 2009.
**Barred Owl:** rep Long Lake, Keene, Wi, Inlet all season.
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Akey Rd Cadyville 2 Mar-6 Apr (CMJr), only report.
**Whip-poor-will:** Ticonderoga 2 May (NC); Wi 5 May (CW).
**Chimney Swift:** Elizabethtown 3 May (J&PT); Wi 15 May (CW), first for her yard; max 4 Sagamore 26 May (GL).
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Mirror Lake 7 May (LM); many other rep.
**Belted Kingfisher:** Apt 13 Mar (TA); Inlet 16 Mar (GL); Wi 19 Apr (CW).
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Beekmantown 1 Mar-14 Apr (MM); CP 9 May (TB); Ptau 16 May (JO).
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Keene 3 Apr (J&PT); ESFN 1 May (JK).
**Downy Woodpecker:** 8 banded Inlet thru (GL); sev other rep.
**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 8 Inlet (GL); sev other rep.
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Long Lake 13 Mar (JEC); PSVIC 16 May (J&PT); FB 29 May (JM); other reports.
**N. Flicker:** Inlet 16 Mar (GL); Apt 1 Apr (J&PT); max 8 IL 4 Apr (LM); Wi 20 Apr (CW).
**Pileated Woodpecker:** Keene 16 Mar (J&PT); FB 29 May (FB, JM).

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Keene 21 May; Hulls Falls Keene 31 May (J&PT); SSP 25 May (MM); BTS 27 May (GL).
**E. Wood- Pewee:** NP 23 May (J&PT); Wi 25 May (MA); CP 22 May (GL,TB), banded.
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 5 WFMH 23 May (JS); FB 24 May (GL).
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Il 17 May; Keene 22 May (J&PT); CP 23 May (GH,GL); FB 25 May (GL).
**Willow Flycatcher:** W. Plattsburgh 28 May (BK); max 2 Lake Alice 28 May (JO).
**Least Flycatcher:** Keene 7 May (J&PT); 7 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**E. Phoebe:** Ptau 1 Apr (JH); Keene 3 Apr (J&PT); Wi 3 Apr (CW); max5 Lake Alice 21 May (DL).
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** CP 7 May (GL); The Gulf and Area 13 May (JH).
**E. Kingbird:** Beekmantown 24 Apr (BK,CM), early CLIN; Lake Alice 23 May (J&PT), on nest; CP 21 May (GH,GL), recapture 6yr 11 mo old.
**N. Shrike:** Inlet 6 Mar (GL), banded; Wallonsburg 13 Mar (J&PT); Ptau 1 Mar (JH); AP 21 Mar (BK,CM).
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Ptau 17 May (BK), only report.
**Blue-headed Vireo:** Keene 22 Apr (J&PT); max 4 ESFN 1 May (JK).
**Warbling Vireo:** Keene 2 May (J&PT); CP 15 May (GH,GL), banded.
**Philadelphia Vireo:** Westport 15 May (BM); Ptau 22, 28 May (JO).
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 4 BB 24 May; many reports.
**Gray Jay:** max 5 BB 16, 24 May (MM, SW); BP 27 May (NR); ad w yng FB 28 May (GL).
**Blue Jay:** max 22 IL 4 Apr (LM); 13 banded Inlet thru (GL); 29 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Com. Raven:** Coon Mt 3 Apr; 2 fledged Keene 24 May (J&PT); French Settlement Road 31 May (NR).
**Horned Lark**: Piseco Airport 5 Mar (LH,JF); CRL 14 Apr (JO).
**Purple Martin:** colony RP 19 May; AM 29 May, only reports.
**Tree Swallow:** 4 pr CP 24 May; other reports.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** AM 11 Apr AM (J&PT, MM), early CLIN; CRL 1 May (TA).
**Bank Swallow:** CRL 1 May (JO); colony Chazy, Miner Fm. Rd 19 May (JO).
**Cliff Swallow:** RP 24 Apr.(JO), early CLIN.
**Barn Swallow:** AM 11 Apr (J&PT), early CLIN; max 20 CP 20 May (GL).
**Black-capped Chickadee:** 10 banded CP (GH,GL), returns - one 5yrs 11 mo, one 4 yrs 11mo.
**Boreal Chickadee:** max 10 Blue Mountain Summit 16 May (JL,RL,JL); other regular loc.
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 4 Inlet thru Mar (GL); Pl 8 Mar (CM); well established.
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** IL 4 Apr (LM); FB 29 May (JM); many rep.
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Ptau 1 Apr (JH); max 8 Inlet thru (GL).
**Brown Creeper:** Long Lake 15 Mar (JEC).
**Carolina Wren:** Ray Brook 20 Mar (MG); pair CP 3 Apr (RL,GL); Ptau 1 May (JO), nice finds.
**House Wren:** AP 17 Mar (J&PT), early CLIN.
**Winter Wren:** Keene 3 Apr (J&PT); max 6 IL 5 May (LM).
**Marsh Wren:** 2 AP 13 Mar (JO), early CLIN; AP 1 May (J&PT); Westport 15 May (BM).
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Keene 4 Apr (J&PT); max 6 Lake Alice 14 Apr (MM).
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Lake Placid 2 Apr (LM); AM 11 Apr (J&PT), early CLIN.
**E. Bluebird:** Keene 16 Mar (J&PT); pr BTS 25 May (GL).
**Veery:** Lake Alice 23 May (J&PT); IL 2-22 May (LM); French Settlement Rd 2-31 May (NR).
**Bicknell's Thrush:** max 16 WFMH 23 May (JS), only report.
**Swainson's Thrush:** Keene 17 May (J&PT); max 35 WFMH 23 May (JS); 2 banded CP 20 May (GH,GL).
**Hermit Thrush:** arr Loon Lake 6 Apr (CMart), record early; Keene 8 Apr (J&PT); max 5 BB 24 May (SW).
**Wood Thrush:** Clarojast 12 May (JH); max 3 CP 15 May (GL).
**Am. Robin:** fledged yng CP 16 May (GH,GL); many rep.
**Gray Catbird:** 25 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL); many rep.
**N. Mockingbird:** Lake Pleasant 21 May (JD); CP 7-25 May (GL), only reports.
**Brown Thrasher:** IL 21 Apr (LM); Ptau 31 May (JH); 2 banded CP 14 May (GH,GL).
**Am. Pipit:** IL 2 May (LM); max 40-50 Lake Placid 16 May (J&PT).
**Bohemian Waxwing:** Ptau 27 Mar (JO); Ptau 7 Apr (JO), only reports.
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 16 23 May WFMH (JS); 9 banded CP (GH,GL).

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Westport 15 May.
**Golden-winged Warbler:** banded CP 15 May (GH,GL), only report.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** Westport 15 May (BM).
**Tennessee Warbler:** Lake Alice 18 May (JO); CP 19 May (GL), only reports.
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** IL 22 May (LM), only report.
**Nashville Warbler:** Keene 22 Apr (J&PT); max 15 BB 24 May (SW), 3 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**N. Parula:** arr IL 4 May (LM); CP 6 May (GL); PSVIC 16 May (J&PT); max 5 BB 24 May (SW).
**Yellow Warbler:** Keene 4 May (J&PT); max 15 Lake Alice 21 May (DL); 11 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 14 IL 23 May (LM).
**Magnolia Warbler:** Keene 15 May (J&PT); max 10 IL 23 May (LM); 11 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Cape May Warbler:** IL 15 May (LM); Lake Alice 18 May (JO); 1 banded CP 19 May (GH,GL).
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** ESFN 1 May (J&PT); max 4 FB 29May (JM).
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Taylor Pond Campground 20 Apr (JStein); max 50 WFMH 23 May (JS); 221 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Keene 2 May (J&PT); max 8 WFMH 25 May (JS).
**Blackburnian Warbler:** Keene 5 May (J&PT); Hulls Falls Rd 8 May (YT).
**Pine Warbler:** AP 10 Apr ((J&PT), early CLIN; Inlet 25 May (GL).
**Prairie Warbler:** Madawaska 15 May (TW), photos; 1 banded CP 18 May (GH,GL).
**Palm Warbler:** PSVIC 18 Apr (BM); PSVIC 16 May (J&PT); max 5 BB 24 May (SW); 2 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL), "Western" morph.
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** PSVIC 8 May (BM); NVIC 15 May (WL); PSVIC 16 May (J&PT); Lake Alice 18 May (JO).
**Blackpoll Warbler:** NVIC 15 May (WL); Lake Alice 18 May (JO); CP 18 May (GL).
**Black-and-white Warbler:** Peru 1 May (LF); Keene 8 May (J&PT); max 3 SSP 25 May (MM); 2 banded CP 15 May (GH,GL).
**Am. Redstart:** NP 23 May (J&PT); 7 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Ovenbird:** Peru 2 May (LF); Keene 4 May (J&PT); max 6 Clarojast 5 May (JH).
**N. Waterthrush:** 3 banded CP 21 May (GH,GL); BB 24 May (NR).
**Mourning Warbler:** IL 23 May (LM); Cadyville 27 May (CM); max 4 Clarojast 29 May (JH).
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr IL 4 May (LM); max 8 IL 22 May (LM); 26 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Wilson's Warbler:** Ptau 16, 18 May (JO); CP 16 May (GL); PSVIC 24 May (SW).
**Canada Warbler:** Ptau 16 May (JO), ties CLIN early record; max 7 Ptau 18 May (JO); SSP 25 May (MM).

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** many Ptau 5 May (JO); CP 8 May (GL); BB 24 May (SW).
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** Elizabethtown 3 Mar (DC); Inlet 24 Mar (GL).
**Chipping Sparrow:** Inlet 6 Apr (GL); Keene 13 Apr (J&PT); 3 max Hulls Falls Rd 8 May (YT).
**Field Sparrow:** Ptau 4 Apr (JH); max 6 Ptau 1May (JH).
**Savannah Sparrow:** AM 11 Apr (J&PT); max 3 IL 5 May (LM).
**Fox Sparrow:** Inlet 23 Mar (GL); Wi 8 Apr (CW); IL 14 Apr (LM); Pl 21 Apr (CM).
**Song Sparrow:** Inlet 22 Mar (GL); Keene 24 Mar (J&PT); max 10 IL 3 Apr (LM).
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Chubb River 24 Apr (Stuart ?); IL 4 May (LM); max 5 BB 24 May (SW); 7 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Swamp Sparrow:** Lake Placid 3 Apr (LL); Lake Alice 14 Apr (MMC); PSVIC 1 May (J&PT).
**White-throated Sparrow:** Pl 27 Mar (CM); BP 20 Apr (NR); max 12 IL 5 May (LM).
**White-crowned Sparrow:** ESFN 1 May (J&PT); 18 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Dark-eyed Junco:** Keene 3 Mar (J&PT); Inlet 4 Mar (GL); 126 banded season Inlet thru; max 30 IL 17 Apr (LM).
**Snow Bunting:** Northway Keene Exit 5 May (GL), only report
**Scarlet Tanager:** CP 8 May (GL); NP 23 May (J&PT).
**N. Cardinal:** max 4 WP 3Apr; 3 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 5 Clarojast 12 May (JH); max 5 French Settlement Rd 20 May (NR).
**Indigo Bunting:** Chazy 23 Apr (D&AF), early CLIN; BP 19 May (NR); WP 19 May (RL); banded CP 20 May (GL).
**Bobolink:** Peru 2 May (LF); max 11 IL 10 May (LM); CP 20 May (GL).
**Red-winged Blackbird:** Westport 13 Mar (J&PT), max 107 IL 8 May (LM).
**E. Meadowlark:** Whallonsburg 23 May (J&PT); Lake Alice 24 May (JH).
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 25-30 Lake Alice 24 Apr (JO); SPB 21 May (MM).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** LP 2 Apr.
**Baltimore Oriole: AP** 11 Apr (MM), early CLIN; 16 banded CP 7-23 May (GH,GL).
**ORCHARD ORIOLE:** CP 12 May (TB), banded 13 May (GH), stayed thru closing 23 May.
**Purple Finch:** Keene 13 Mar (J&PT); 194 banded Inlet thru (GL), many other rep.
**House Finch:** Ptau 20 Apr (JH); Brian's Aviary 24 Apr (DC); max 3 Ptau 1 May (JH).
**Red Crossbill:** Ptau 16 May (JO), only report.
**White-winged Crossbill:** Sabattis Bog 14 Mar (JEC).
**Pine Siskin:** Keene 13 Mar (J&PT), still at feeder; LP 13 Mar (LM); Loon Lake 13 Mar (CMart); Keene 4 May (J&PT), with yng.
**Am. Goldfinch:** max 85 IL 22 Apr (LM); 35 banded CP 7-23 May (GH); 413 banded Inlet all season (GL).
**Evening Grosbeak:** 6-12 Wi thru (CM,MA); Peru 17 Apr (LF); SL16 May (EW).

### ADDENDUM

**Gray Partridge:** 2 Champlain Jan-Feb 2010 (Bob Laurin), over wintered.
**BROWN PELICAN:** Chazy Riverlands 1 Sep 2008, on shoreline for about 45 min while many viewed it during Laurin family picnic, no photos obtained.

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## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

**Will Yandik**
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Unusually warm temperatures and somewhat dry weather characterize spring 2010. March ended 6.7° F above average at Albany International Airport. April continued warm, reaching 87° on the 7th and finishing 5.3° above average. May ended 3.1° above average, with 10 days reaching temperatures above 80°. By the third week of April, oaks, maples, and other canopy trees reached full leaf out, and hickory canopies developed fully by 1 May. Perhaps due to the somewhat dry weather, insects did not emerge earlier than average, although many fruits and berries began to ripen two to three weeks earlier than average.

John Hershey observed an "odd duck," probably a Northern Pintail x Mallard hybrid in March, the one waterfowl highlight in an otherwise typical spring waterfowl migration. An unusually late Red-throated Loon was seen in Coxsackie, Greene County, tarrying until 22 May. Six Horned Grebes observed on Saratoga Lake at the same time is an unusual single-location maximum for our Region.

While canoeing, Owen Brown observed an Anhinga taking off from a 40-acre beaver pond in Oppenheim, Fulton County. He reports that the bird rose, circling very high to catch a thermal and left the immediate area. Rare in our Region, nevertheless a number of Anhinga reports of varying quality have surfaced in recent springs. Few of these reports manage to muster NYSARC approval, so observers of potential spring Anhinga overshoots are encouraged to take great pains to document them, with photos if possible. Reports should take care to make a convincing argument that they are not cormorants, which can

superficially resemble Anhingas when viewed from certain angles or when soaring.

On 27 May, Rich Guthrie found a Red-necked Phalarope at the Greene County Industrial Development Area on the former Coxsackie grasslands, at an unassuming man-made drainage pond that has yielded good avian surprises to the dedicated troupe of birders who check it frequently.

I received an unprecedented number of Sandhill Crane reports this spring. Joan Esposito of Hillsdale, New York, photographed one that staged for several days on the small wetland on Route 23. Scattered other reports occurred in May, and two individuals appeared at Vischer's Ferry on 15 May. Although still uncommon, we can now expect at least one or two sightings per year in our Region as this species expands its breeding locations in the State.

With such an early leaf out this year, in mid April one could walk through the Region's forests, their canopies already full and lush, and search in vain for any migrants. The experience had the arresting and eerie feeling of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. Despite the full canopy and caterpillars to eat, the neotropical migrants were not any earlier than average springs; it is clear that birds respond to many variables when initiating migration other than the simple presence of leaves. The migrants did eventually arrive, of course, but roughly on dates similar to previous springs. Some short-distance migrants such as Gray Catbird, Eastern Pheobe, and several species of swallows were early, but most species of birds were not. Two exceptions are record early dates for Pine Warbler (27 March) and Blackpoll Warbler (6 May).

From Matt Young, we learned of both Type 1 and 2 Red Crossbills with dependent young at the end of May at Burnt-Rossman State Forest near West Fulton (his thanks to Tom Williams). Type 1 were present at this location from August of 2009 to at least early June 2010. The birds first fed on eastern larch, shifted to white pine in the late fall/early winter period, and then were seen feeding on red pine seeds and Norway spruce buds in the April to June period.

Finally, a correction to the fall 2009 report: there were two sightings of Red Phalarope last fall that I inadvertently combined into one. As a result, the Red Phalarope described in the seasonal narrative does not match the one mentioned under the species accounts. For the record, one phalarope was observed on 2 October in Fort Miller, Washington County as described in the narrative, and a second bird appeared in East Greenbush, Rensselaer County on 17 October as noted in the species account. Thank you to Bill Lee, for pointing out this omission. Red Phalaropes are always rare in our Region and two sightings in one season is unprecedented.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brauch, Alvin Breisch, Owen Brown, Gerry Colburn, Frank Conley, Bill Cook, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, David Gibson, Elizabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, Roberta Hynes (RHy), John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Eric Krantz, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew

Mason, Matt Medler, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Ellen Pemrick, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Larry Rowland, John Saville, Susan Scheck, Scott Stoner, Vin Sturn, Joan Suriano, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Brad Walker, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, T. Lloyd Williams, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh ALBA; BRH – Burnt-Rossman Hills SF SCHO; BRU – T Brunswick RENS; COH – T Cohoes ALBA; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; HR – Hudson R; LIV – T Livingston COLU; NBA – T New Baltimore GREE; PR – Partridge Run ALBA; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 1000+ HR at NBA 16 Mar.
**Brant:** max 300 New Scotland ALBA 17 May.
**Wood Duck:** arr Neiber Swamp LIV 4 Mar.
**Gadwall:** max 4 Four-mile Pt GREE 29 Mar.
**Am. Wigeon:** max 6 Collins L SCHE 10 Mar.
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr VF 23 Mar.
**N. Shoveler:** max 6 VF 21 Mar.
**N. Pintail:** max 50 VF 14 Mar.
**Canvasback:** last Cheviot COLU 23 Mar.
**Greater Scaup:** 2 Ft. Miller WASH 4 Mar; 4 Collins L 24 Mar.
**White-winged Scoter:** COX Boat Launch 21 Mar.
**Black Scoter:** COX Boat Launch 18 Mar.
**Long-tailed Duck:** NBA12 Apr; Saratoga L SARA 13 May.
**Ruddy Duck:** arr VF 18 Mar.
**Ruffed Grouse:** Wilton SARA 11 Apr; max 5 Rensselaerville RENS 18 Apr; Middle Grove SARA 24 Apr.
**Red-throated Loon:** COX Boat Launch 22 May, late.
**Com. Loon:** 2 Mechanicville SARA12 Mar; NBA 8 Apr; L George WARR 16 Apr.
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr VF 25 Mar.
**Horned Grebe:** max 6 Saratoga L SARA 23 Apr, high single location maximum.
**Red-necked Grebe:** Papscanee RENS 11 Apr.
**Great Cormorant:** max 3 HR at Cheviot COLU 21 Mar; last Tomhannock Res RENS 22 Apr.
**ANHINGA:** Oppenheim FULT 4 May (OB).
**Am. Bittern:** arr Neiber Swamp LIV 24 May; Sharon Springs SCHO 31 May.
**Least Bittern:** arr BCM 12 May.
**Great Egret:** Collins L SCHE 27 Mar; Clifton Park SARA 11 Apr.
**Green Heron:** arr Albany 23 Apr.
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 2 VF 21 Apr.
**Black Vulture:** max 10 NBA 10 Mar; Johnstown Res FULT 26 May, unusual in that county.

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr Athens GREE 25 Mar.
**N. Goshawk:** Catskill GREE 5 Mar; PR 22 May.
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Lock 19 SCHE 21 Mar; Stone Stores SCHO 11 Apr.
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Schodack I RENS 3 Apr.
**Rough-legged Hawk:** last Florida MONT 6 Mar.
**Golden Eagle:** Greenport COLU 22 Mar; BRH 3 Apr; Albany 17-30 Apr.
**Merlin:** Five Rivers ALBA 8 Mar; 2 BRU 14 Apr.
**Virginia Rail:** arr Chatham COLU 9 Apr.
**Sora:** arr BCM 12 May, declining.
**Com. Moorhen:** arr Albany 22 May.
**Am. Coot:** arr Neiber Swamp LIV 30 Apr.
**SANDHILL CRANE:** Hillsdale COLU 4 May; Delmar ALBA 14 May; BCM 14-15 May; 2 VF 15 May, high count.
**Black-bellied Plover:** COH 27 May.
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr SARA 5 May.
**Killdeer:** arr Meadowdale ALBA 5 Mar.
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr NBA 21 Apr.
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Neiber Swamp LIV 1 May.
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Nassau RENS 12 Apr.
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr VF 22 Apr.
**Ruddy Turnstone:** Halfmoon SARA 30 May.
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr COH 3 May.
**Least Sandpiper:** arr COH 14 May.
**Dunlin:** COH 27 May.
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr COX grasslands 21 Mar.
**Am. Woodcock:** arr LIV 6 Mar.
**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** COX grasslands IDA pond 25 May (RG).
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr L George WARR 2 May; max 115 L George WARR 11 May.

**Iceland Gull:** COX Boat Launch 21 Mar.
**Black Tern:** arr COH 29 May.
**Com. Tern:** arr L George WARR 2 May.

### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr 2 Catskill GREE 5 May.
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 May.
**Long-eared Owl:** 2 Rensselaerville ALBA 18 Mar thru, nesting pr.
**Short-eared Owl:** max 9 Saratoga Battlefield SARA 6 Mar.
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Hillsdale COLU 6 May.
**Whip-poor-will:** arr Hillsdale COLU 6 May.
**Chimney Swift:** arr BRU 22 Apr.
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Albany 2 May.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Albany 2 May.
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Catskill GREE 14 May.
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Albany 2 May.
**E. Phoebe:** arr Stillwater SARA 6 Mar.
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr LIV 1 May.
**E. Kingbird:** arr Albany 2 May.
**N. Shrike:** Fuera Bush ALBA 3 Mar; Rensselaerville ALBA 11Mar; last Five Rivers ALBA 18 Mar.
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Albany 2 May.
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr PR 10 Apr.
**Warbling Vireo:** arr VF 29 Apr.
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Greenport COLU 13 May.
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Albany 1 May.
**Purple Martin:** L Lonely SARA 2 May.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr BRU 14 Apr.
**Bank Swallow:** arr LIV 19 Apr.
**Cliff Swallow:** arr Chatham COLU 9 May.
**Barn Swallow:** arr COX grasslands 9 Apr.
**House Wren:** arr Saratoga Springs SARA 4 Apr.
**Marsh Wren:** arr VF 9 Mar, record early.
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Catskill GREE 3 Apr.
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Schodack I RENS 11 Apr.
**Veery:** arr Albany 2 May.
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Ghent COLU 7 May.
**Wood Thrush:** arr COX 24 Apr.
**VARIED THRUSH:** Wilson/Gansevoort 26-31 Mar (RHy).
**Gray Catbird:** arr Ghent COLU 25 March, early.
**Brown Thrasher:** arr Five Rives ALBA 10 Apr.

### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr LIV 1 May.
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Claverack COLU 15 May.
**Nashville Warbler:** arr LIV 1 May.
**N. Parula:** arr VF 2 May.
**Yellow Warbler:** arr VF 21 Apr.
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr LIV 1 May.
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr PR 7 May.
**Cape May Warbler:** arr LIV 1 May; Five Rivers ALBA 8 May; NBA 9 May; Olana COLU 10 May; Albany 11 May; BRU 21 May, more common this year.
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Saratoga Springs SARA 2 May.
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Claverack COLU 8 Apr.
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr BRH 24 Apr.
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr VF 2 May.
**Pine Warbler:** arr Spencertown COLU 27 Mar.
**Prairie Warbler:** arr LIV 1 May.
**Palm Warbler:** arr NBA 4 Apr.
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr LIV 6 May; Pine Bush ALBA 11 May; LIV 12 May; PR 16 May; Glenville SCHE 28 May.
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr LIV 6 May.
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Hannacroix ALBA 18 May.
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr BRH 24 Apr.
**Am. Redstart:** arr LIV 1 May.
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr Hillsdale COLU 6 May.
**Ovenbird:** arr Feller Rd LIV 2 May.
**N. Waterthrush:** arr LIV 1 May.
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Ghent COLU 6 Apr.
**Mourning Warbler:** arr PR 16 May; max 7 BRH 23 May.
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Troy 28 Apr.
**Hooded Warbler:** arr New Scotland ALBA 17 May; New Salem ALBA 21 May; Thacher Park ALBA 22 May.
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Ghent COLU 11 May.
**Canada Warbler:** arr VF 7 May.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr LIV 28 Mar.
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Austerlitz COLU 1 Apr.
**Field Sparrow:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 20 Mar.
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Germantown 11 Apr; Pine Bush ALBA 20 Apr; BRU 25 Apr; Saratoga Battlefield SARA 25 Apr.
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr LIV 15 Mar.
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Saratoga Airport SARA 18 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Chatham COLU 20 Mar.
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Petersburg RENS 1 May.
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr LIV 2 May.
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr BRU 25 Apr.
**Indigo Bunting:** arr E Greenbush RENS 1 May.
**Bobolink:** arr COX grasslands 2 May.
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Florida MONT 18 Mar.
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Tomhannock Res RENS 21 Mar.
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Averill Park RENS 1 May.
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Germantown COLU 30 Apr.
**Red Crossbill:** max 15 BRH 1Mar thru, nested, *intro.*
**Com. Redpoll:** 7 PR 7 Mar.
**Pine Siskin:** max 2 Galway SARA 30 Mar.
**Evening Grosbeak:** Gansevoort SARA 22-27 Mar.

**CORRIGENDUM**

The following observation was omitted from the fall 2009 report:
**RED PHALAROPE:** Ft. Miller WASH 2 Oct.

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# REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

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The spring 2010 season is most notable for the most reports this editor has seen. It seems many people are now reporting their sightings to local bird clubs, posting on the internet, or sending directly to me. The only down side is the lack of reports from Putnam County.

March was extremely warm and wet. A series of three storms caused flooding and downed trees. The worst was a Nor'easter that hit on 13 March, with winds gusting near hurricane force. Numerous large trees were downed. March had over 8" of rain in some areas. White Plains had 4.8" in just three days from 28-30 March. Poughkeepsie came in 7.8° warmer than normal and White Plains 5.8° warmer.

An extended warm spell at the beginning of April brought in great numbers of the expected early arrivals such as Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Eastern Phoebe. The warm spell, with highs in the seventies and above, lasted over a week. It peaked with a high of 90° in Poughkeepsie on 7 April on strong southerly winds and very low humidity. Heavy rain and high winds on the night of 8 April created a major fallout in Sullivan County on the 9th. Most of the birds were waterfowl, with many Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, scaup, and Common Mergansers at the various sites. Seven Long-tailed Ducks were on Swan Lake, and a Red-breasted Merganser was in Bashakill. Nine Red-necked Grebes and thirty-one Horned Grebes were tallied for the day, with six Red-necked Grebes on Kiamesha Lake and eighteen Horned Grebes in Morningside Park.

The warm April weather had leaf out two to three weeks early. Some trees in the southern sections of the Region were fully covered by 20 April, and

everyone was expecting the early arrivals to continue. But the last half of April was disappointing. Migration seemed to be suspended until the last day of the month when an impressive wave of both early and late May migrants turned up. This burst continued for the first two days of May. Then migration was slowed once again by a cold front with high winds that brought nighttime temperatures near and below the freezing mark on 10 and 11 May. Two weeks later Poughkeepsie reached a high of 95° on 26 May. May finished with precipitation well below normal; less than two inches of rain was recorded in Poughkeepsie. But temperatures were 3° above normal for the month.

Greater White-fronted Geese made appearances, with two in Wallkill on 8 March. One was also seen at the Bashakill Marsh on 10 March for Sullivan County's first record. What may have been the same bird was seen a day later in Pine Island.

Scott McCarley reported a **Swallow-tailed Kite** seen from Pines Bridge Road east of Taconic Parkway, Millwood/Yorktown area in Westchester County at about 6:00 PM on 8 April. It circled two or three times then headed east. This is the fourth report for the county, but there has yet to be a report submitted to or accepted by NYSARC.

Brian Houser spotted a Sandhill Crane on 21 April out in the flats along the Wallkill River, New Paltz wading through the fields looking for something to eat. Tom Burke found and photographed a Sandhill Crane in the field at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 4 May. The bird vanished shortly thereafter. This is the 300th species recorded at Marshlands and Westchester County's second record. A pair of Sandhill Cranes was discovered and photographed in Ulster County on 8 May in the Town of Saugerties by Steve Chorvas.

A breeding-plumaged Hudsonian Godwit was found at the Wallkill River NWR, Orange County on the evening of 10 April by members of the Mearns Bird Club. It was found again the next morning in the impoundment immediately south of the parking area on Oil City Road. An early Spotted Sandpiper was also present.

Tom Burke and Gail Benson discovered an adult **Mew Gull** in a flock of two hundred Ring-billed Gulls on 14 March at the Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye. It was well described, photographed, and seen by a number of birders before the day was out. It was refound the following day in the afternoon and was again reported the next day. This would be the first record for the Region and Westchester County.

Mark DeDea found another Eurasian Collared-Dove at the Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston on 21 April. Two were present last fall. It was unbanded, but Mark does point out that the Center is a common place for unwanted animals/pets to be let go.

Malcolm Grant and Anne Bloomfield spotted a **Townsend's Solitaire** at the Spring Farm field on Mohonk Preserve on 21 March. Photographs where taken. The bird was seen with a small flock of Eastern Bluebirds.

Austin Mohr found a Prothonotary Warbler in Tallman Mt. State Park 2 May. It was heard singing nearby the next day.

Chris Healy reported an extremely early male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at his feeder in Pearl River 19 March along with an early male Baltimore Oriole in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles. The immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird that wintered near Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary and frequented its feeders, made three appearances in early March before departing. Westchester County's fourth record for Boat-tailed Grackle was discovered at Marshlands Conservancy on 29 April. Both a male and female were present two days later. Both were seen on 1, 3, & 4 May and the male was seen as late as 20 May. All previous records in the Region are from this location as well.

Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge was closed to the public starting in May for the restoration project to convert the existing runways to grassland bird habitat.

The Dutchess County May Census run by the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club found 152 species. The census included two Ring-necked Ducks, an American Bittern, six Sora, three Whip-poor-wills, two Olive-sided Flycatchers, a Philadelphia Vireo, a healthy 159 Bank Swallows, a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Grasshopper Sparrow, two White-crowned Sparrows, two Purple Finch, and 27 species of warblers. Notable warblers included a "Lawrence's" Warbler, two Cape May Warblers, Palm Warbler, and four Mourning Warblers. Misses included Bay-breasted and Cerulean Warblers. Raptors included 17 Red-shouldered Hawks, seven American Kestrels, and 17 Barred Owls.

Other notable species reported this season include: Eurasian Wigeon, Glossy Ibis, Iceland Gull, Black Tern, Caspian Tern, Northern Shrike, and Evening Grosbeak.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, David Arner, John Askildsen, Paula & Scott Baldinger, Fred Baumgarten, Alan Beebe, Gail Benson, Andrew Block, Anne Bloomfield, Michael Bochnik, Jackie Bogardus, Bob Bowler, Arlene Borko, Gene Brown, Jacqueline Bruskin, Tom Burke, Alex Burdo, Barbara Butler, Tammie Carey, Steve Chorvas, Drew Ciganek, Mary Collier, Bea Conover, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Mark Diedrich, Tom Dow, Derrick Eidam, Kelly Erlwein, Valerie Freer, Tom Fiore, Ken & Carol Fredericks, Dick Gershon, Marge Gorton, Malcolm Grant, Arthur Green, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Ken Harris, Chris Healy, Brien Hindman, Brian Houser, Tait Johansson, Rodney Johnson, Art Jones, Kateri Kosek, Debi Kral, John Lampkin, Christopher Letts, Robert Lewis, Jeff Lucas, Ryan MacLean, Dan Marazita, Frank Margiotta, Evan Mark, Scott McCarley, Ken McDermott, Gene McGarry, Ruth McKeon, Ken McNichol, Marsha Meyer, Barbara Michelin, Ed Morse, Austin Mohr, Dennis Murphy, Frank Murphy, Glenn Nystrup, Stephanie Paradise, Mona Payton, Adrienne Popko, Sue Rayano, Dick Ryley, Edith & Barry Rosen, Peter Schoenberger, Steve Sckyler, Elisa Shaw, Ruth Shursky; Ed Solan, Anne Swaim, Jessie Trabend, Benjamin Van Doren, Gary VanHouten, Jane Vecchione, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent, Fritz Waterman, Otis Waterman, Jane Waters, Carol Weiss, Rosemarie Widmer, Robert Williams.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; HRA – Hudson River Almanac; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PNP – Pawling Nature Preserve; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center ; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 2 Walkill 8 Mar (JV); Bashakill 10 Mar, photo (JH,ABo,LV, KMcD); Pine Island 11 Mar.
**Snow Goose:** Bashakill 1 Apr; 2 Morningside 30 Apr.
**Brant:** 600 EGR 4 Apr; 35 migrating north in the evening, Newburgh 5 May, early; 500 Saugerties 20 May; 1250 EGR 20 May; 3000 Norrie Pt 20 May; 400 Rhinecliff 31 May.
**Canada Goose:** 1500 Millerton 9 Mar.
**Eurasian Wigeon:** Wappinger L 11 Mar (KH).
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr Bashakill 30 Apr.
**N. Pintail:** Wurtsboro late May.
**Green-winged Teal:** Vlei marsh, Rhinebeck 23 May.
**Redhead:** 2 EGR 17 Mar.
**Ring-necked Duck:** 267 Bashakill 18 Mar; Saugerties 15 May.
**Greater Scaup:** 400 EGR 12 Mar; EGR 3-28 May.
**Lesser Scaup:** 200 EGR 25 Mar; 140 EGR 1 Apr.
**Surf Scoter:** 300 EGR 14 Mar; 2 Cooper Lake, Lake Hill 11 Apr; 40 EGR 17 Apr; Onteora Lake, Kingston 15 May.
**White-winged Scoter:** 30 EGR 25 Mar; 4 Chelsea 9 Apr; 7 Chelsea 10 Apr; 400 EGR 17 Apr; 3 Neversink Res 8 May; 110 EGR 1 May; 20 Esopus Lighthouse 12 May; 6 Kiamesha L 12 May.
**scoter, sp:** 125 Chelsea 12 May (RJ, ESo).
**Long-tailed Duck:** 17 EGR 3 Apr; 7 Swan L 9 Apr; 2 Kiamesha L 10 Apr; EGR 6 May.
**Hooded Merganser:** 1 f & 9 yg Cary IES 8, 10 May (CV).
**Red-breasted Merganser:** Bashakill 9 Apr (JH,LV); Rondout Res 10 Apr(SB).
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Doodletown 23 May; handful of reports from Dutchess.
**Ruffed Grouse:** reports from Ulster and Dutchess.
**Com. Loon:** 41 EGR 30 Apr.
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Great Vly, Saugerties 21 Mar.
**Horned Grebe:** 3 Bashakill 20 Mar; 27 EGR 25 Mar; Bashakill 3 Apr; 2 Ashokan Reservoir 8 Apr; 11 Kiamesha L 9 Apr; 18 Morningside Park 9 Apr; 2 Swan L 9, 10 Apr.
**Red-necked Grebe:** EGR 18 Mar; Bashakill 6, 9 Apr; 2 Morningside 9 Apr; 6 Kiamesha L 9 Apr.
**N. Gannet:** EGR 26 Mar; 5 EGR 1, 4 Apr; MC 5 Apr.
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 13 Neversink Res 14 May.
**Am. Bittern:** Saugerties 10 Apr; Cary Arboretum (IES) 15 Apr; Bashakill 26, 30 Apr; Vlei marsh, Rhinebeck 22 May; Tivoli North Bay 23 May.
**Least Bittern:** Bashakill 15 May.
**Great Egret:** 2 EGR 27 Mar; 7 EGR 30 Apr.
**Snowy Egret:** arr New Rochelle 4 Apr; 13 EGR 30 Apr; 3 PP 3 May (CH,TD).
**Little Blue Heron:** EGR 30 Apr.
**Green Heron:** arr Bashakill 1 May.
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** EGR 30 Apr; 12 EGR 28 May.
**Glossy Ibis:** 6 Yonkers 27 Apr (JBr).

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr MC 21 Mar.
**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Millwood 8 Apr (SM).
**N. Harrier:** 6 SGNWR 7, 8 Mar.
**N. Goshawk:** Tivoli Bay 20 Mar; Stonykill 27 Mar; Bashakill 8 Apr; Pond Gut, Lagrange 24, 25 Apr; PNR 16 May.
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Hook Mt 8 Apr; 98 Lewisboro 18 Apr.
**Red-tailed Hawk:** leucistic type 8, 9 New Paltz.
**Rough-legged Hawk:** Youngsville 5 Mar.
**Golden Eagle:** Little Stissing Mt 4, 17 Mar; imm Bashakill 6-10 Mar; PP 15 Mar.
**Merlin:** Stonykill 6 Mar; Kingston 20 Mar; West Saugerties 28 Apr; EGR 30 Apr; SGNWR 15 May.
**Clapper Rail:** 4 MC 18Apr, 4, 13 May.
**Virginia Rail:** arr Thompson Pd 10 Apr.
**Sora:** West Saugerties 11, 12 May (PS); New Paltz 15 May; 2 Vlei marsh, Rhinebeck 22 May (RJ).
**Com. Moorhen:** arr Bashakill 30 Apr; 6 Bashakill 1 May.
**Sandhill Crane:** New Paltz 21 Apr (BHo, HRA); MC 4 May (TB), photo; 2 Saugerties 8 May (SC), photo.
**Black-bellied Plover:** 3 PP 24 May (GeB); 10 MC 28 May.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Kingston Res 12 May; 4 Loch Sheldrake L 16 May (RD).
**Am. Oystercatcher:** arr EGR 23 Mar; 6 EGR 1 Apr; 4 MC 5 Apr.
**Spotted Sandpiper:** Wallkill River NWR 11 Apr; 3 EGR 30 Apr; 4 PP 3 May; 5 Shawangunk 14 May.
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Bashakill 1 May; 4 Millbrook Sch 9 May; 3 Buttercup West 10 May; 8 Shawangunk 14 May.
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 6 EGR 27 Mar; Wallkill River NWR 11 Apr; 23 EGR 16 Apr; 13 MC 29 Apr.
**Willet:** 3 MC 1 May; PP 3 May (CH,TD); MC 20 May; 2 MC 25, 26, 28 May.
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Briscoe 7 Apr; 3 Wallkill River NWR 11 Apr; EGR 30 Apr; 2 Millbrook Sch 9 May, K&CF; 7 Loch Sheldrake L 12 May; 12Shawangunk 14 May.
**Upland Sandpiper:** SGNWR 15 May (LA, JB, SC).
**Hudsonian Godwit:** Wallkill River NWR 10, 11 Apr (DMu).
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 6 Kingston Res 12 May.
**Least Sandpiper:** 17 Loch Sheldrake 12 May.
**Purple Sandpiper:** 7 EGR 16 Apr; 3 EGR,20 May.
**Dunlin:** Woodbourne 12 May (VF,RD,MG).
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Woodbourne Prison 12 May (VF,RD,MG); 2 MC 20 May.
**Wilson's Snipe:** 4 Southlands 28 Mar; 6 Pine Plains 4 Apr; 5 Bashakill 28 Apr; Millbrook Sch 9 May.
**Am. Woodcock:** arr 2 Mar; 6 Cary Arboretum (IES) 2 Apr; 7 Kakiat Park 16 Mar; Livingston Manor, bird on nest 29 Apr, 4 eggs hatched 13 May.
**Bonaparte's Gull:** Bashakill 9 Apr (JH); Kiamesha L 9 Apr (JH,S&PB); Bashakill 9 Apr (JH)); 40 PP 13 Apr (RosW); 100 mouth of the Rondout Creek, Kingston 8 May (MDe); 2 Kingston Pt 15 May (LA,JBo,SC).
**Laughing Gull:** 2 MC 29, 20 Apr.
**MEW GULL:** EGR 14-16 Mar (TB,GaB), 1st regional and WEST record, *intro.*
**Ring-billed Gull:** 500 EGR 12 Mar.
**Iceland Gull:** PP 5 Mar (RosW).
**Least Tern:** 2 MC 5 May; 4 MC 16 May.
**Caspian Tern:** Rondout Lighthouse 15 May (MDe).
**Black Tern:** Bashakill 12 May (KMcD).
**Com. Tern:** 2 Bashakill 26 Apr; MC 2 May; 2 mouth of the Rondout Creek, Kingston 8 May (MDe); Bashakill 12 May (VF,MC,JH); 10 Rondout Lighthouse 14 May (MDe); 200 Rye 26 May.
**Forster's Tern:** 4 MC 25 Apr.

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 21 Apr (MDe).
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Bashakill 1 May early; Rombout Rd 4 May; Bashakill 8 May; 4 Ferncliff 5 May; PNP 22 May; Doodletown 23 May; Rhinebeck 29 May.
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Bashakill 7 May; Ferncliff 11 May; Rhinebeck 17 May.
**Short-eared Owl:** 5 SGNWR 7,8 Mar; 1 SGNWR 21 Mar.
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** calling Westbrookville 3 Apr (JH,ABo S&PB).
**Com. Nighthawk:** 3 Bashakill Haven Rd 8 May, early; 5 Hopewell Jct 20 May.
**Whip-poor-will:** West Saugerties 7, 15 May; Bashakill 15 May; Mohonk Preserve 27 May.
**Chimney Swift:** arr EGR& Denning's Pt 30 Apr.
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr 1 May.
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Pine Plains 11 Apr; 3 Tallman Mt SP 1-31 May; 2 Marbletown 7-15 May; 2 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 15 May; West Saugerties 15 -20 May.
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 9 Nuclear Lk 7 May (CV); 3 PNP 22 May (BBu); 9 individuals and pairs on territories, NE Catskills (SC, ABe).

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Buttercup W 14 May; Bashakill15 May; Doodletown 15 May; SGNWR 15 May; Linear Park, Wurtsboro 20 May; 3 Doodletown 23 May; Cary IES 28 May.
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Teatown Reservation 2 May.
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Livingston Manor 30 May.
**Acadian Flycatcher:** 3 Sullivan County, during Break-a-100 day 15, 16 May.
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Linear Park, Sterling Forest 15 May.
**Willow Flycatcher:** MC 11 May.
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Bashakill & Deep Hallow Rd, Amenia 1 May.
**E. Phoebe:** arr Wurtsboro 17 Mar.
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr MC 30 Apr.
**E. Kingbird:** arr EGR, Bashakill 30 Apr.
**N. Shrike:** SULL 3, 21 Mar (RD,MGo,VF); Tivoli Bay 20 Mar.
**White-eyed Vireo:** arr EGR 1 May.
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Woodstock 5 Apr; 3 (1 on nest) PNR 22 May.
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Millbrook 30 Apr; 6 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 5 May.
**Warbling Vireo:** arr Dennings Pt 21 Apr.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Reese Sanct, Poughkeepsie 19 May (KH).
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Poughquag 9 Apr.
**Fish Crow:** arr northern sections of the Region by 1 Mar.
**Horned Lark:** 50 Verbank 3 Mar; 30 Millerton 1 Mar.
**Purple Martin:** 6 EGR 6 May; 25 NewPaltz 16 May.
**Tree Swallow:** Hook Mt 9 Mar (TF); 273 Bashakill 28 Mar.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Upton Lake 6 Apr.
**Bank Swallow:** arr Poughkeepsie 25 Apr; 50 Poughkeepsi 27 Apr; 20 Ellenville 16 May.
**Barn Swallow:** Bashakill 28 Mar.
**Cliff Swallow:** arr Cross River Res 15 Apr; 15 Southlands 29 May.
**HouseWren:** arr 19 Apr.
**Marsh Wren:** arr Bashakill 30 Apr; 5 Cruger Island Rd 17 May; Vlei Marsh, Rhinebeck 23 May; 4 Saugerties 25 May.
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 2 w/nest Cooley Rd bog 9 May; 4 Cooley Rd bog 29 May.
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Rhinebeck 17 May (RJ).
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Cary Arboretum (IES) 10 Apr; 4 MC 3, 16 May.
**E. Bluebird:** 8 Vassar Farm 11 Mar; 8 Millbrook 31 Mar.
**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE:** Mohonk Preserve 21 Mar (AnnB,MGr).
**Veery:** arr Stonykill 30 Apr.
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 2 RNC 19, 20 May.
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Rockefeller SP 10 May.
**Wood Thrush:** arr Hyde Park 27 Apr; 20 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 5 May.
**Gray Catbird:** arr 20 Apr.
**Brown Thrasher:** arr 1 Apr.
**Am. Pipit:** 7 Loch Sheldrake L 12 May; 3 Domin Farm 13 May.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Bashakill 30 Apr; 6 Sterling Forest 30 May.
**Golden-winged Warbler:** 9 Sterling Forest 2 May; Bashakill 6 May; Saugerties 6 May; 4 Sterling Forest 30 May.
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** Rockefeller SP 30 Apr (EMa); Cary IES 7, 9, 10, 13 May (K&CF,DA,CV,BBu,OW,FW).
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** Linear Park, Wurtsboro 15 May (SB).
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Tallman Mt SP 3 May; 2 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 5 May; Doodletown 15 May; Bashakill 15 May; New Paltz 15 May; Bashakill 16 May; West Saugerties 18 May; RNC 20 May.
**Nashville Warbler:** arr 19 Apr.
**N. Parula:** arr Bashakill 26 Apr, early; MC 30 Apr; 10 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 5 May.
**Yellow Warbler: arr** Cary Arboretum (IES) 7 Apr; 10 EGR 30 Apr.
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Denning's Pt 21 Apr.
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr 2 May.
**Cape May Warbler:** Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 5 May; West Saugerties 11 May; 3 Kingston 11 May; Shawangunk 15 May; Neversink 16 May; Rhinebeck 17 May; Sterling Forest 30 May.
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr MC 30 Apr.
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 56 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 5 May.
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Poughquag 8 Apr; 16 Deep Hallow Rd, Amenia 1 May; 14 Ferncliff Forest 5 May.
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Bashakill 30 Apr; 5 Wurtsboro 2 May; 12 m singing on territories, NE Catskills 5 May (SC, ABe).
**Pine Warbler:** arr Bashakill 1 Apr; many loc 2 Apr.
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Stissing 27 Apr.
**Palm Warbler:** arr 1 Apr Pine Plains, many loc 3 Apr.
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 9 May, many loc 15 May.
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Piermont 3 May.
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Bashakill 1 May; Yonkers 3 May; 9 Sterling Forest 2 May; 9 Doodletown Rd 15 May.
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr MC 21 Apr; 8 Pine Plains 13 May.
**Am. Redstart:** arr Rockefeller SP 2 May; 15 Tivoli Bay 12 May; 20 PNR 22 May.
**Prothonotary Warbler:** Tallman Mt SP 2-3 May (AM,RL).
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr 18 Apr; 9 Rhinebeck 17 May.
**Ovenbird:** arr Cary Arboretum (IES) 15 Apr; 20 PNR 22 May.
**N. Waterthrush:** arr Fern Glen 19 Apr.
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Kakiat Park 3 Apr; 6 Pond Gut Lagrange 24 Apr; 12 Deep Hallow Rd, Amenia 1 May.
**Kentucky Warbler:** Ferncliff Forest in Rhinebeck 11 May (RMac); Muscoot Farm 17 May (AS); Rockefeller SP 28-31 May (EMa).
**Mourning Warbler:** arr Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 9 May; Saugerties 9 May; West Saugerties 10 May; MC 14,20 May; Mohonk 15 May, 3 others in Ulster Co; Bashakill 15,16,21 May; 3 West Saugerties 17

May; Rhinebeck 17 May; Ferncliff Forest 17,18 May; 2 PNR 22 May.
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Millbrook 30 Apr.
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Peach Hill 10 Apr; 9 Sterling Forest 2 May; Tallman Mt SP 3 May; 8 Doodletown Rd 15 May; 2 Muscoot Farm 17 May; 6 PNR 22 May; Rockefeller SP 31 May.
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Beacon 30 Apr; 3 Bashakill 8 May; 2 MC 14 May.
**Canada Warbler:** arr Bashakill 1 May.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Bashakill. Deep Hallow 1 May.
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last rep 14 Mar.
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr 20 Mar Kingston.
**Field Sparrow:** arr MC 4 Apr.
**Vesper Sparrow:** Westbrookville 3 Apr (SB,LV,JH,ABo); Ashokan Reservoir 4 Apr; StonyKill 29 May (KH).
**Savannah Sparrow:** MC 29 Apr.
**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** MC 5, 11 May.
**Seaside Sparrow:** MC 28 May.
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Bashakill 2 May, many reports thereafter.
**Swamp Sparrow:** 10 Bashakill 15 Apr.
**White-throated Sparrow:** 70 Buttercup Farm Sanctuary 1 May.
**White-crowned Sparrow:** Millerton 2 Mar; Millbrook 31 Mar; many rep in April and May; 15 Vassar Farms 2 Apr.
**Snow Bunting:** 60 Millerton 1 Mar; 3 Callicoon 3 Mar.
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** m Pearl River 19 Mar (CH,TD); arr Stormville 28 Apr; 10 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 5 May.
**BLUE GROSBEAK:** MC 7 May (TB); Salt Point 17 May (BBo), 5th Dutchess County record.
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Hyde Park 2 May; 15 Doodletown 23 May.
**Bobolink:** arr 30 Apr Millbrook; 15 Domin Farm 4 May; 35 Muscoot Farm 16 May.
**E. Meadowlark:** Neversink 30 Mar; 2 Morningside Park 9 Apr.
**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary, Chappaqua 3, 4, 6 Mar.
**Rusty Blackbird:** 7 Stonykill 18 Mar; 2 Bashakill 19 Mar; 2 Millbrook 31 Mar; 2 Bashakill 15 Apr.
**Boat-tailed Grackle:** MC 29 Apr (TB); 2 MC 1, 3, 4 May (TB,TJ,BV); m MC 20 May, WEST 4th record, might be breeding.
**Orchard Oriole:** 3 arr EGR 30 Apr; 3 Bashakill 1 May; 3 Rockefeller SP 2 May; 3 Doodletown 23 May.
**Baltimore Oriole:** m Pearl River 19 Mar ;arr Bronxville 12 Apr.
**Purple Finch:** few reports from DUTC in Mar, May.
**Pine Siskin:** 1 at feeder New Paltz 1 Mar-23 Apr; Bashakill early Mar; 3 Neversink 5 Mar; Hillside Lake 27 Mar; Bashakill 3 Apr.
**Evening Grosbeak:** 2-5 Parksville 5-10 Mar (SR).

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## REGION 10—MARINE

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The spring season was wet, windy and very warm, with one of the better land bird migrations in recent memory, and many seabird highlights reflecting the intensive efforts of several birders. 303 species were recorded in the Region, with three additional exotics and one particularly notable subspecies. The most sought-after species were generally found in good numbers and odd mixes. There were many early arrivals.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the season was the extreme weather. Following a cold and wet winter, 9.41" of rain fell at Islip in March, twice the average. Precipitation records were smashed at other stations too, with Central Park receiving 10.69" for the month and 4.6" in back-to-back storms from 12-15 March. The earlier of these storms produced wind gusts up to 78 mph at JFK Airport. March was warm, too, with a mean temperature of 45.1° F at Islip, 5.3° above normal. On 18 March, record high temperatures for the date occurred throughout the Region, e.g., 74° at Central Park. Another storm on 30 March produced around 4" of rain at western stations, and 6-7" over much of eastern Long Island. Groundwater levels in the Region were at record heights following the rains—seven feet above normal in some areas. April was drier than normal, but the extreme warmth continued. 2.78" of rain fell at Islip, 1.35" below normal. About half fell during the storm of 25-26 April. The average temperature was 53.4°, 4.3° above normal. Conditions were even warmer in the western portion of the Region, with an average temperature of 57.9° at Central Park, 5.4° above normal. The high temperature at Central Park on 7 April was 92°. Another big warmup occurred in late April. Warm and dry conditions continued through May. The average temperature was 62.3° at Islip, 3.1° above normal. Precipitation was 2.85", 1.05" below normal. But strong cold fronts produced several blustery weekend days during the peak of passerine migration. On 8 May, sustained winds built to 35-40 mph across Long Island. 9 May was windy, with temperatures 15-20° below normal. On 15 May, sustained winds were 25-30 mph by dawn. The extremely warm and dry conditions in April and early May, coupled with high groundwater levels providing soil moisture, acclerated foliage development by 2-3 weeks or more in western and inland areas.

Rarities lingering from winter included four **Greater White-fronted Geese** at East Hampton; a **"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal** at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; drake **Barrow's Goldeneyes** at Jamaica Bay and Centre Island, Nassau County; and a **"Common" Mew Gull** at Bensonhurst Park, Brooklyn. A **Western Grebe,** found by Shane Blodgett at Prince's Bay, Staten Island on 20 March, was reported subsequently on 21 March and 2 April. The bird was probably one of at least two Western Grebes that were seen sporadically along the Brooklyn-Queens and northern New Jersey coasts through the winter.

The efforts of Angus Wilson and John Shemilt, along with several other equally dedicated but mostly shore-bound sea watchers, resulted in many notable records of pelagic species this spring. Angus noted a seabird flight on 7 March at Montauk that included a **Thick-billed Murre**. Another flight on 28 March, viewed from several eastern Long Island locations, included good numbers of Black and Surf Scoters, Northern Gannets, and 60 Razorbills. The huge storms of 12-15 March did not produce a correspondingly notable seabird flight. Over 15,000 Common Terns were seen from Breezy Point, Queens on 13 May. Land-based sea watches in late May produced such notable species as Cory's, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and Parasitic Jaeger. But the greatest seabird highlights of the season came from offshore.

On 3 April, John Shemilt reported the following birds 12-22 nautical miles south of Shinnecock Inlet: **Little Gull**, five **Dovekies**, three **Common Murres**, 100 Razorbills, and 25 **Atlantic Puffins**. On 21 April, he ventured offshore to 72 nautical miles southeast of Shinnecock with Angus Wilson and found two **Northern Fulmars**, 31 Sooty Shearwaters, four Wilson's Storm-Petrels (a very early date for the latter two species), and four **Red Phalaropes**. Finally on 29 May, a trip as far as 65 nautical miles off Shinnecock and also to the "Little Fishtails" 42 nautical miles southeast of the inlet produced five Cory's Shearwaters, 15 Greater Shearwaters, a **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, two **Red Phalaropes**, at least five jaegers, one of which was a near-adult **Long-tailed Jaeger**, and three late **Dovekies**, along with other expected birds.

Razorbills virtually disappeared through much of the winter after record flights in January. Numbers observed in the spring season did not approach those of January, but Razorbills were persistently present in eastern Long Island coastal seabird flights and pelagic observations through April.

An early shorebird flight was observed in coastal marshes along the barrier island in eastern Nassau and western Suffolk Counties on 18 April by Shai Mitra, Pat Lindsay, Tom Burke, Gail Benson, and others. The highlight was a basic-plumaged **American Golden-Plover** at Cedar Beach, Suffolk County, but the flight also included 5000 Dunlin, 500 Black-bellied Plovers, and three early Short-billed Dowitchers, among other species. Shorebird numbers built in the last days of May but were generally very low the remainder of the season. Red Knots were particularly scarce. The maximum of 282 on 31 May, viewed on the tidal flats of Moriches Bay from Cupsogue County Park and Pikes Beach in Westhampton Dunes, Suffolk County, was not approached by any other observations.

Impressive numbers of scaup congregated in western bays in the late winter. Numbers of Greater Scaup built to a maximum of 40,000 in Dead Horse Bay, Brooklyn on 2 March. 1500 Lesser Scaup were reported at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 20 March. There were large spot counts of a number of other waterfowl species, too, but overall numbers of species such as American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, and Redhead were low.

The season did not produce a pronounced "trans-gulf slingshot" migration event, but there were many early arrivals. The trend toward early arrival dates was evident across a wide variety of species, including both short-distance migrants that traditionally arrive during early spring and long-distance migrants that arrive later. In terms of numbers, most early spring species failed to appear in noteworthy concentrations (although individual birds arrived remarkably early in many cases), whereas many late spring species appeared in large numbers well ahead of schedule, obscuring the expected phenological sequence.

More than 35 passerine species, including 17 warblers, were reported arriving in the Region substantially before their long-term average arrival dates. Species approaching or exceeding extreme early arrival dates included: Alder Flycatcher; Tree Swallow; Nashville Warbler; Eastern Kingbird; White-eyed Vireo; Prothonotary Warbler; a *Seiurus* warbler, probably a Louisiana Waterthrush by date; and Bobolink. Early arrivals continued into May. On 8

May, Blackpoll Warblers competed with Yellow-rumped Warblers for the most numerous migrants in the city parks. By that point, the mix of birds included typically late migrants such as Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Canada, and Wilson's Warblers (all first reported about a week earlier), Mourning Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Female birds also tended to arrive early. Moreover, only a few species arrived substantially later than normal. The phenomenon of early spring arrivals and odd assemblages is comparable to the pattern of recent years, though this year, as well as 2009, was particularly pronounced.

The first big neotropical migrant push occurred on 30 April, when 20 or more species of warblers were observed in city parks. This event continued through the first days of May, with many new arrivals. Peak passerine migration occurred in the Region on 14 May, when at least 26 species of warblers were observed in Central Park, with similar diversity in other city and western Long Island parks.

The night of 14 May, a migratory movement was interrupted by a strong cold front accompanied by northwest winds of 25 mph or more. While abundant migrants were observed in city parks on the windy Saturday of 15 May, the overnight wind shift produced a particularly notable reorientation flight along the ocean coast. Thousands of migrants reached the shore, fighting the head winds and were observed as they flew westward along the barrier beaches. Among the highlights were 20 species of warblers at Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk County, including 110 Magnolia Warblers, 70 Black-throated Blue Warblers, and 33 Canada Warblers. Also seen there were 250 Chimney Swifts, 9 Cliff Swallows, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Alder Flycatcher. A wayward Blue Jay was also associated with this flight.

An unusual crepuscular flight was noted by Andrew Farnsworth on the east side of mid-town Manhattan on 21 May. The flight was highlighted by 435 White-winged Scoters, 22 Surf Scoters, 125 scoter sp., 22 Short-billed Dowitchers, 43 unidentified "peeps", 7 Whimbrels, 2 Black Skimmers, and 2 Common Nighthawks.

Bird diversity was outstanding this season and was certainly a reflection of both increased birder effort and the many vehicles for reporting. The only "expected" species missed were Eurasian Wigeon, Short-eared Owl, and Vesper Sparrow. Species recorded in low numbers, in addition to those mentioned above, included: Common Moorhen, Northern Bobwhite, Tricolored Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Kestrel, Bonaparte's Gull, and Common Nighthawk. Declines in these species have been previously documented in our area. On the positive side, some species were recorded in good numbers, among them: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Blue Grosbeak, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Orchard Oriole.

The most unusual rarity of the season was a **"Sooty" Fox Sparrow** (*unalaschcensis* subspecies group), the first record for New York State if accepted. It was found on 13 May in Central Park's "Strawberry Fields" section by Steve Chang and Andrew Rubenfeld and remained there the next day. Photographs and comments posted on the Internet helped to confirm the identification. This bird followed one that frequented a feeder in Barrington,

New Hampshire last winter. The only other record east of the Rocky Mountains was a bird in Burlington, North Dakota in the winter of 1994-1995. Interestingly, there is one other record of a western Fox Sparrow in New York State. A "Slate-colored" Fox Sparrow (*schistacea* subspecies group) was collected at the Fire Island Lighthouse on 12 May 1971 and identified as *P.i. altivagans*, breeding in interior British Colombia and Alberta. Both of these records are about a month later than the normal spring departure dates of our usual eastern "Red" Fox Sparrows, *P.i. iliaca*.

The season featured some other exceptional rarities. A **Barnacle Goose**, found by Norm Klein at Sunken Meadow State Park, Suffolk County on 2 March, may have been the same bird that spent several weeks there in the fall. It was a one-day wonder this time. Jay McGowan and Andrew Van Norstrand spotted a fly-by **Pacific Loon** during a sea watch at Cupsogue County Park on 24 May. Perhaps even more impressive is that they managed to get good photos of the bird, an adult in alternate plumage.

A **White-Faced Ibis** was found by Shane Blodgett on April 26 and seen sporadically through 26 May at the West Pond and surrounding marshes of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. There was speculation based on plumage details that two birds were present, but the photographic documentation is inconclusive. White-faced Ibis was listed as a possible breeder at Jamaica Bay in the first Breeding Bird Atlas, based on the presence of two individuals there in 1979, 1980, and 1983.

Vicki Bustamante spotted a **Swallow-Tailed Kite** flying over Montauk on 7 April. It was a day of strong southwest winds and record heat, and followed sightings at Sandy Hook, New Jersey on 6 April. Two **Sandhill Cranes** were found at Southampton, Suffolk County on 20 March by Evan Marks and then relocated by Peter Matthiessen in nearby Sagaponack on 27 March. The birds stayed in the same farm field until the morning of 2 April. They were seen in Block Island, Rhode Island later that day! The recent string of Sandhill Crane records on eastern Long Island includes single birds in May, June, and November 2009.

A female **Wilson's Plover** delighted many birders as the winds increased to 40 mph at Jones Beach West End on 8 May. The bird was found by Andrew Baksh and was seen again on 15 May by Steve Schellenger and others. Another female Wilson's Plover was found by Angus Wilson on 21 May at Sagaponack Pond but stayed only briefly. Shai Mitra found an adult **Arctic Tern** on the tidal flats north of the parking lot at Cupsogue County Park on 23 May. Roseate and Black terns were also seen there in late May. The first Royal Tern of the year was seen on 31 May at nearby Pikes Beach. A **White-winged Dove** was found at the Jones Beach West End Coast Guard Station on 2 May by Joan Quinlan and Gerta Fritz. It stayed for a few hours before flying off toward the west.

**Common Ravens** continued their recent expansion into New York's coastal lowland region. Corey Finger brought the Region's first known nest to the attention of the birding community after investigating a report he heard at a local butterfly club meeting. The nest was on a water tower in the Kew Gardens section of Queens. Three young fledged on 31 May; two were seen in the area

subsequently (see article this issue). Ravens were also seen in early March in Roslyn, Nassau County; in northeastern Queens, where they have been regular the past few seasons; and in May on Staten Island.

An immature male **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder in the yard of Roseanne Blackburn, Sea Cliff, Nassau County on 2 May. She got good photographs. An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen 12-14 May at the Mount Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island. The bird was photographed and reported by Seth Wollney after it was found by his non-birding but keenly observing parents. Birders observing 85 Bobolinks at Garvies Point Preserve in Glen Cove, Nassau County on 3 May, described it as a wonderful spectacle. The maximum number of Bobolinks recorded in spring in Region 10 was 100 in Lattingtown, Nassau County on 16 May 1967.

Some other notable birds of the spring season included a Red-necked Grebe at Jamaica Bay on 31 May; Upland Sandpipers at Robert Moses State Park and Drier-Offerman Park, Brooklyn in April; 1-2 Wilson's Phalaropes at Jamaica Bay from 21 May; a singing Orange-Crowned Warbler that spent two weeks at the Water Hole in Forest Park, Queens in May; and a Clay-Colored Sparrow at Drier-Offerman Park on 16 May.

A covey of eight Northern Bobwhites was seen in early March in Calverton, Suffolk County at a site just north of the former Grumman Property, where several Regionally rare species have nested recently. The site has since been leveled for development.

**Mitred Parakeets** returned to Hillcrest, Queens for a few days in April to feed on cherry blossoms, as they have for the past decade or so. The blossoms and the birds were earlier than normal this year. Information on any additional sightings is welcomed.

The author mined the Cornell eBird data base for many records in this report. The other major sources used include NYSBirds, eBirds NYC, SINaturaList, other local Internet sources, and the New York Rare Bird Alert.

Finally, the author notes with great sadness the untimely passing of Matt Bayer, a respected local birder and frequent contributor to these pages.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AMA – Amagansett, SUFF; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; Calv – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), SUFF; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; DOP – Drier-Offernam P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FIHW – Fire I Hawkwatch, SUFF; FMCP – Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, QUEE; FP – Forest Park, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Hecksher SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; KP – Kissena Park, QUEE; Mass – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; nm – nautical miles; PBP – Pelham Bay P, BRON; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RP – Riis P, QUEE; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; VSSP – Valley Stream SP, NASS; WPP – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

### WHISTLING–DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 4 imm East Hampton, SUFF thru 4 Mar (HM).

**Snow Goose:** max 1500 Jam Bay 20 Mar (KM); last Jam Bay 28 Mar.

**Brant:** max 4000 Jam Bay 11, 16 Apr; few lingering thru, multiple locations; 50 Jam Bay 29 May (SA).

**"Black" Brant:** 2 Mt. Loretto, RICH 21 Mar (RV, *et al*).

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** SMSP 2 Mar (NK), same bird from fall?

**Cackling Goose:** Caumsett SP, SUFF 8 Mar (RK).

**Mute Swan:** numbers of ad on ponds at Jam Bay built to 75-100 in May; at least 25 cygnets Jam Bay 30 May (SA).

**Tundra Swan:** 4 Sagaponack, SUFF 14 Mar (AnW); 2 Sagaponack 21-27 Mar (SSM, PJL, MN, HM).

**Wood Duck:** max 16 migr PP 10 Mar (AxW); 3 FP 19 Mar (CF), unusual location; 4 Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF 6 Apr (RBA); 4 JBSP 22-25 Apr (DK, mob); 14 SMSP 14 May (VP); 3 Flushing Airport, QUEE 21 May (CF, SA).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** not reported.

**Am. Wigeon:** about 50 reports; max 15 Bayville, NASS 6 Mar (BF).

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr MLUA 6 Mar (LZ), early; WPP 27 Mar (JS); Cow Meadow P, NASS 1 Apr (RKe); 4 Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF 6 Apr (RBA); 3 JBSP 22-30 Apr (DK, mob); 3 Bergen Beach, KING 6 May (DG); fem Jam Bay 30 May (SA).

**N. Shoveler:** max 169 Jam Bay 10 Apr (AB), large number.
**N. Pintail:** scarce; max 10 sev loc sw RICH 6 Mar (CB); 7 Mill Pd, NASS 1 Mar (JPi).
**"EURASIAN" GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R10):** Jam Bay thru 5 Mar (TWB, GB, mob); Nissequogue R SP, SUFF 7 Mar (DF); 2 same loc 20 Mar (VP); 2 identified as hybrids of American and Eurasian forms Jam Bay thru 5 Mar (TWB, GB, mob).
**Canvasback:** scarce; max 16 Maratooka L, SUFF 7 Mar (JSe); Jam Bay 31 Mar (AL); SMSP 1 Apr (VP).
**Redhead:** max 50 Willet's Pt, West Islip, SUFF 7 Mar (DF), large number; 6 other rep of 11 birds.
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 40 Calverton Ponds Preserve, SUFF 7 Mar (JB); 25-35 SMSP late Mar; 3 PP 21 Apr (RBA), late.
**Greater Scaup:** max 40,000 Dead Horse Bay, KING 2 Mar (RBo), large number; 8400 Jam Bay 7 Mar (SA); 320 Southampton 20 Mar (SSM, PJL); FMCP 12 May (CF); few lingering Jam Bay thru.
**Lesser Scaup:** 30 Jam Bay 7 Mar (SA); 260 West Islip 7 Mar (DF); max 1500 Jam Bay 20 Mar (KM), large number.
**King Eider:** fem Montauk 28 Mar (AnW), poss. continuing from winter.
**Com. Eider:** large numbers persisting from winter, a few lingering thru: 500 Shinn 9 Mar (TWB, GB); 520 Shinn 20 Mar (SSM, PJL); 93 Jones Inlet, NASS 17 Mar (K&SF); 41 Jones Inlet 21 Mar (SA); 16 JBWE 18 Apr (BB); 15 JBWE 25 Apr (SA); 70 Shinn 23 May (JM); 29 Shinn 27 May (SA, SM); BPT 30 May (SA); 3 CCP 31 May (PJL).
**Harlequin Duck:** 1-7 incl. as many as 3 drakes Pt. Lookout, NASS & JBWE; last 7 JBWE 15 Apr (BF, SA, BR, mob); 2 Shinn thru 9 Mar (RA, LO); fem Prince's Bay, RICH 31 Mar (SIW); 2 MP 2-4 Apr (LO, AnW); 3 MP 1-2 May (AnW, HM).
**Surf Scoter:** 307 Coney I, KING 25 Mar (SB); 195 AMA 28 Mar; max 770 Ditch Plains, SUFF 28 Mar (AnW); 22 E52 St, NEWY 21 May (AF), unusual loc; a few lingering thru.
**White-winged Scoter:** 290 Breakwater Beach P, Mattituck, SUFF 17 Mar (JSe); 22 AMA 28 Mar (AnW); 10 Ditch Plains, SUFF 28 Mar (AnW); max 435 E52 St 21 May (AF), unusual loc; a few lingering thru.
**Black Scoter:** 28 Jones Inlet 16 Mar (K&SF); 180 AMA 28 Mar (AnW); max 1002 Ditch Plains, SUFF 28 Mar (AnW).
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 3200 Coney I 4 Mar (DG).
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Jam Bay thru 12 Mar (mob); Centre I, NASS thru 7 Mar JGl).
**Com. Merganser:** 70 SMSP 3 Mar (SF), large number; 28 SMSP 6 Mar (SA); 11 SMSP 1 Apr (VP); 6 FP 1 May (CF), fly-over, unusual loc.
**Ruddy Duck:** 977 Jam Bay 8 Apr (DG); 1200 Jam Bay 11 Apr (RBo); more than in winter.
**N. Bobwhite:** 8 Calverton, SUFF 2-6 Mar (RM, SA), *intro*; 5 Hecksher SP, SUFF 28 Apr (KT); MP 1 May (HM); BPT 23 May (AB).
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** MNSA 16 Mar; several reports from KP, Flushing Airport, JBWE, GKP, FBF, and other loc.
**Wild Turkey:** about 20 reports; max 12 Cove Hollow Farm, SUFF 7 Mar (JRo); 6 Northville, SUFF 17 Mar (MLL).
**Red-throated Loon:** max 32 Gravesend Bay, KING 14 Apr (DG).
**PACIFIC LOON:** ad alt CCP 24 May (JM, AVN), ph.
**Horned Grebe:** max 155 Montauk 7 Mar (AnW); 52 Jam Bay 14 Apr (DG).
**Red-necked Grebe:** SPCP 2 Mar (CS); AMA 27 Mar (AnW); 2 RMSP 6 Apr (SSM); Jam Bay 31 May (JGa), ph, very late.
**WESTERN GREBE:** Prince's Bay 20-21 Mar (SB, mob); same area 2 Apr (RV), *intro*.
**N. Fulmar:** 2 approx 72nm SE Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh).
**Cory's Shearwater:** 5 approx 42nm SE Shinn 29 May (JSh), ph, *intro*; CCP 31 May (PJL), early.
**Greater Shearwater:** 10 sev mi off MP 25 May (JP); 15 approx 42nm SE Shinn 29 May (JSh), *intro*.
**Sooty Shearwater:** one 31nm SE Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh), very early; DP 23 May (SSM); 12 CCP 23 May (SSM, PJL, TWG, GB); 2 RMSP 24 May (SSM); 10 sev mi off MP 25 May (JP); Shinn 26 May (SA, SM); 2 RMSP 28 May (RJK); 25 off Shinn to 42nm SE 29 May (JSh); 5 MP 29 May (RBA); RMSP 30 May (RBA).
**Manx Shearwater:** MP 2 May (AnW); Shinn 23 May (TWB, GB); RMSP 24 May (SSM).
**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 4 approx 70nm SE Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh), very early; 3 CCP 24 May (JM); 2 sev mi off MP 25 May (JP); Shinn 27 May (SA); 50 off Shinn to 42nm SE 29 May (JSh); 6 MP 29 May (RBA); 8 RMSP 30 May (RBA).
**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** one 42nm SE Shinn 29 May (JSh), *intro*.
**N. Gannet:** 665 AMA 28 Mar (AnW); 482 Ditch Plains 28 Mar (AnW); 1617 Coney I, KING 14 Apr (DG); max 2200 Plumb Beach, KING 16 Apr (DG); 100 Verrazano Bridge, RICH 16 Apr (LN).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1100 JBWE & RMSP 16 Apr (SSM); 463 AMA 17 Apr (AnW); 150 DOP 17 Apr (AxW); 500 AMA 19 Apr (AnW, HM).
**Great Cormorant:** 2 Plumb Beach 16, 19 Apr (DG); DOP 17 Apr (AxW); AMA 15 May (AnW).
**Am. Bittern:** Quogue, SUFF 6 Mar (SA); Quogue 16 Mar (LO); Captree SP, SUFF 20 Apr (KT); Forest Hills, QUEE 1 May (CF), unusual loc.
**Least Bittern:** Mariners Marsh P, RICH 8 May (CB); VCP 22 May (AB).
**Great Egret:** arr Babylon, SUFF 11 Mar (BGr).
**Snowy Egret:** arr MNSA 3 Apr.
**Little Blue Heron:** arr Accabonac, SUFF 27 Mar (AnW); max 5 Jam Bay 11 Apr (RBo); approx 10 rep RICH; otherwise few.
**Tricolored Heron:** arr Jam Bay 2 Apr; scarce, fewer than 20 reports, all Jam Bay; max 2 Big Egg Marsh 26 May (DG).
**Cattle Egret:** 3 Southampton 31 Mar (RA, DB); Montauk 2-6 Apr (LO, mob); East Moriches, SUFF 3 Apr (DB); Orient, SUFF 18 Apr (JSe).
**Green Heron:** arr Jam Bay 8 Apr (DG), early.
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 2 Apr; Camman's Pd, NASS 18 Apr (SSM); 8 Jam Bay 26 May (SA, DG); 16 MNSA 30 May (BB); 16 Jam Bay 31 May (DG); large numbers.
**Glossy Ibis:** 13 Greenwood Cemetery, KING 7 Apr (DG).
**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** sporadically Jam Bay 26 Apr – 26 May, incl: 26-28 Apr (SB, AB, mob); 7 May (RJK); 13 May (DG, mob); 15 May (TWB, *et al*); 16 May (DG, SS, LZ); 20-21 May (AB); 22 May (TWB, GB); 23 May (JM); 26 May (RBA); ph GB, AB; *intro.*
**Black Vulture:** at least 15 rep of at least 20 birds, mostly from RICH; 3 Greenwood Cem 24 Mar (RJ); 2 PP 24 Mar (PD); Jam Bay 30 Apr (SA, GH, RJK); Merrick Road P, NASS 9 May (SS); Camp Hero SP, SUFF 16 May (AnW); nesting pair at Ft. Wadsworth, RICH apparently returned, details desired.
**Turkey Vulture:** approx 30 rep of at least 85 birds; 8 Camp Hero SP 17 May (AnW).

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** present from winter.
**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Montauk 7 Apr (VB), *intro.*
**Bald Eagle:** imm Sag Harbor 11 Apr (HM); GKP 17 Apr (JGa); 2yr Sag Harbor 21Apr (HM); PP 21 Apr (RBA); William Floyd Estate, SUFF 2 May (MLL); Napeague, SUFF 2 May (AnW); Captain's Cove, NASS 3 May (MN); Darwin James Preserve, NASS 9 May (BBo); imm PP 14 May (R. Bate); Sawmill Creek, RICH 15 May (CB); East River, KING 17 May (D. Gustafson).
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 33 E52 St 30 Apr (AF), large number; 6 PP 30 Apr (DG); <50 other birds rep, scarce.
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** imm Montauk 7 Mar (AnW); Glen Cove, NASS 17 Mar (MN); Owls Head P, KING 27 Mar (AxW); imm SMSP 3-4 Apr (VP, JGl); Shu Swamp, NASS 3 Apr (KF); Patchogue, SUFF 13 May (DT); Jam Bay 20 May (AB!), late, unusual loc.
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 80 CP 17 Apr (RBA); 8 Plum I, SUFF 29 Apr (JSe); 9 Camp Hero SP 17 May (AnW).
**Rough-legged Hawk:** SPCP 1 Mar (DB), only report.
**Am. Kestrel:** migr 8 Greenwood Cem 7 Apr (DG), max; migr 7 FBF 19 Apr (DG); 2 Calv 11 Apr (RK); Rocky Pt 12-15 Apr (RK); 6 E52 St 30 Apr (AF); Calv 22 May (RK); <50 other birds rep .
**Peregrine Falcon:** approx 100 rep of approx 30 birds.
**Virginia Rail:** Sag Harbor, SUFF 17 Apr (HM); Arshamomaque Preserve, SUFF 1 May (JSe); SMSP 3 May (VP); 2 Jam Bay 13 May (DG, *et al*).
**Sora:** RICH 15 May, only rep on "Rails Trails Walk" (fide SIW).
**Com. Moorhen:** CP 7-20 May (mob), released by rehabilitator; only 3 other rep, all RICH.
**SANDHILL CRANE (R10):** 2 Southampton 20 Mar (E. Marks, fide HM); same pr Sagaponack 27 Mar – 2 Apr (P. Matthiessen, fide HM, mob). *intro.*
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 500 Tobay, NASS to Cedar Beach, SUFF 18 Apr (SSM, PJL, TWB, GB).
**Am. Golden-Plover:** Cedar Beach 18 Apr (TWB, GB, mob).
**WILSON'S PLOVER:** fem/imm JBWE 8 May (AB, mob), 15 May (SSch, mob); fem Sagaponack 21 May (AnW, *et al*).
**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 JBWE 17 Apr (SSM, PJL), early.
**Piping Plover:** arr JBWE 20 Mar; max 20 BPT 29 May (KM), incl newly hatched chicks.
**Am. Oystercatcher:** arr JBWE 1 Mar (JG); max 32 BPT 28 Mar (SB).
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr E52 St 22 Apr (AF); widespread 28 Apr .
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 May; 3 SMSP 3 May (SF, VP); 5 Bergen Beach, KING 6 May (DG);

up to 3 APP 1-16 May (mob); 9 PP 15 May (DG), large number.
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 25 MNSA 17 Apr (BB), large number.
**Willet:** arr 2 JBWE 17 Apr (SSM), early; max 27 CCP 5 May (BY); 12 Jam Bay 16 May (DG, SS), few, reflecting marsh loss?
**"Western" Willet:** CCP 31 May (SSM), early.
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 4 MNSA 6 April (AB); 2 Spring Creek, QUEE 8 Apr (DG); max 10 Flushing Airport 13 May (DG, *et al*).
**Upland Sandpiper:** RMSP 5-11 Apr (SSM, mob); DOP 17 Apr (AxW); DOP 1 May (AxW).
**Whimbrel:** 3 MP 2 May (AnW); 5 Shinn 8 May (RK, *et al*); 7 E52 St 21 May (AF), unusual loc.
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 500 Jam Bay 26 May (DG); max 700 Pikes Beach & CCP 31 May (SSM, PJL).
**Red Knot:** scarce; 2 Cedar Beach 18 Apr (SSM, PJL, TWB, GB); 35 JBWE 10 May (RJK); 40 JBWE 11 May (KF); 125 Jam Bay 26 May (DG); 16 Pikes Beach, SUFF 27 May (SA); 58 Pikes Beach 29 May, 29 same loc. 30 May (HB, *et al*); max 282 Pikes Beach & CCP 31 May (SSM, PJL).
**Sanderling:** 2000 BPT 27 May (DG); max 3000 Pikes Beach & CCP 31 May (SSM, PJL).
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 19 JBWE 3 May (SSM); 3000 Jam Bay 26 May (DG, SA); max 4000 Pikes Beach & CCP 31 May (SSM, PJL).
**Western Sandpiper:** ad alt Pikes Beach 31 May (PJL, mob).
**Least Sandpiper:** arr Sagaponack 4 Apr (AnW); RMSP 6 Apr (SSM), early.
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Plumb Beach 6 May (DG), early; 10 JBWE 11 May (KF); 13 JBWE 16 May (SA); up to 4 Sagg, 21-23 May (RBA); max 35 Bay County P, NASS 30 May (BB), large number; 4 Pikes Beach & CCP 31 May (SSM, PJL).
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 3 Goethal's Br. Pd, RICH 10 Apr (CB, BC), early; 1-2 there thru 30 Apr; MNSA 2 May (RJK, BB); max 7 Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 3 May (HL); Flushing Airport 8 May (CF).
**Purple Sandpiper:** 11 Montauk 7 Mar (AnW); 8 Montauk 28 Mar (AnW); Georgica Pd 30 May (AnW), late.
**Dunlin:** 2000 JBWE 7 Mar (BF); 5000 Tobay, NASS to Cedar Beach, SUFF 18 Apr (SSM, PJL, TWB, GB), large numbers.
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 3 Cedar Beach 18 Apr (SSM, PJL); 3 Tobay 20 Apr (SSM), early; 90 JBWE 3 May (SSM); 100 JBWE 11 May (KF); 22 E52 St 21 May (AF), unusual loc.
**Wilson's Snipe:** DOP 14 Mar (AxW); 8 MLUA 27 Mar (HF); 10 Four Sparrow Marsh, KING 28 Mar (RJ, HL); max 11 FBF 11 Apr (AB).
**Am Woodcock:** present from winter.
**Wilson's Phalarope:** Jam Bay 21 May (SW); m & f 2 Jam Bay 22-23 May (TWB, GB, AB, mob); f Jam Bay 29-31 May (SW, mob).
**RED PHALAROPE (R10):** Sagaponack 9 Apr (HM); 4 off Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh); 2 m approx 65nm SE Shinn 29 May (JSh), ph, *intro.*
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** Montauk 7 Mar (AnW) & 21 Mar (SSM, PJL, MN); AMA 28 Mar (AnW); Shinn 23 May (TWB, GB).
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 15 Sally Rupert Preserve, SUFF 7 Mar (BBo); 23 Coney I 14 Mar (SB); 15 DOP 14 Mar (AxW); coastal max 60 RMSP 6 Apr (SSM); 75 off Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh); 2 Sagg 21-23 May (RBA); 11 Georgica Pd 30 May (AnW); very low numbers.
**Black-headed Gull:** Georgica Pd, SUFF 17 May (AnW, HM), only report.
**Little Gull:** one 12 nm S Shinn 3 Apr (JSh); 2 off Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh); BPT 13 May (DG, *et al*); Shinn 23 May (TWB, GB).
**Laughing Gull:** arr DOP 3 Apr.
**MEW GULL:** Bensonhurst P, KING thru 5 Mar (DG).
**Iceland Gull:** at least 17 reports of 19 birds; last BPT 23 May.
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** at least 17 reports of 24 birds; wintering birds thru 28 Mar (Sagaponack) & 17 Apr (Napeague); DP 23 May (SSM); Pikes Beach 23 May (SSM).
**Glaucous Gull:** East Hampton 6 Mar (AnW); ad Sagaponack 13 Mar (RBA); East Hampton 13-14 Mar (AnW); Lido Beach, NASS 31 Mar (PM); Mattituck, SUFF 10 Apr (RBA); Plumb Beach 19 Apr (DG).
**Least Tern:** arr Jam Bay 1 May; 75-100 DP 25 May (RJK).
**Gull-billed Tern:** arr JBWE 30 Apr (SSM); 4 JBWE 2 May (CF); 4 JBWE 5 May (SyS); 2 JBWE 6 May (RJK); 3 BPT 13 May (DG, *et al*); 2 JBWE 16 May (SA, mob); 4 Jam Bay 22 May (RBA); 4 JBWE 22 May (RBA); 2 JBWE 26 May (RJK).
**Caspian Tern:** Mecox 17, 19 Apr (AnW); 2 Mecox 21 Apr (HM).
**Black Tern:** 5 BPT 13 May (DG, *et al*); DP 23 May (SSM); 3 RMSP 28 May (RJK); 2 MP 29 May (RBA); 2 CCP 31 May (SSM).
**Roseate Tern:** 3 BPT 12 May (DG); 2 DP 12 May (fide SSM); 2 BPT 13 May (DG, *et al*); 2 Georgica Pd 17 May (AnW, HM); 9 AMA 19 May (AnW); 13 DP 23 May (SSM); 2 CCP 26 May (SA, SM).

**Com. Tern:** 57nm SE Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh); coastal arr 7 RMSP 30 Apr; 100 Hampton Bays, SUFF 2 May; 170 JBWE 3 May; max 15,000 BPT 13 May (DG, *et al*), large number.
**ARCTIC TERN:** ad CCP 23 May (SSM!), ph, *intro.*
**Forster's Tern:** arr 6 Apr; 150 Jam Bay 23 May (BF), large number.
**Royal Tern:** arr Pikes Beach 31 May (SSM, PJL).
**Black Skimmer:** arr 13 Plumb Beach 2 May (TP); Gardiner's Bay, SUFF 15 May (fide AnW); 2 E53 St 21 May (AF), *intro*; 5 Sagg 21-23 May (RBA); max 350 Nickerson Beach, NASS 23 May (BF); 275 BPT 27 May (DG); 8 Mecox 30 May (AnW).
**Parasitic Jaeger:** ad Orient Pt, SUFF 14 Mar (NB!, fide AnW), very early; CCP 23 May (SSM, PJL, TWG, GB); RMSP 14 May (SSM); 2 Amagansett 29 May (RBA).
**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** one 42nm SE Shinn 29 May (JSh), ph, *intro.*
**Dovekie:** MP 14 Mar (AnW); 5 16nm S Shinn 3 Apr (JSh); 3 approx 42nm SE Shinn 29 May (JSh), late.
**COMMON MURRE:** 3 approx 16nm S Shinn 3 Apr (JSh).
**THICK-BILLED MURRE:** MP 7 Mar (AnW).
**Razorbill:** 46 MP 7 Mar (AnW); 3 MP 14 Mar (AnW); coastal max 60 MP 28 Mar (AC, *et al*); 2 Amagansett 28 Mar (AnW); 100 approx 12-22nm S Shinn 3 Apr (JSh); 3 RMSP 17 Apr (SSM); 48 Amagansett 17 Apr (AnW, HM); 77 off Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh); *intro.*
**ATLANTIC PUFFIN:** 25 approx 16-22nm S Shinn 3 Apr (JSh); 4 off Shinn 21 Apr (AnW, JSh).

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** JBWE 2 May (JQ, GF, mob).
**Monk Parakeet:** 2 Freeport, NASS 14 May (RC); many rep KING, incl. 20-25 birds Greenwood Cemetery; other reports from QUEE, BRON, SUFF, NEWY.
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr CP 3 May, early; scarce, <20 rep.
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Sands Pt Preserve, SUFF 18 Apr (GQ), very early.
**Barn Owl:** nested Jam Bay for 3rd year.
**Great Horned Owl:** Jam Bay 11 Apr (RBA), unusual loc; nested APP (mob), but 2 y apparently lost at fledging.
**Snowy Owl:** Shinn 6 Mar (LO); Jamesport, SUFF 9 Mar (fide LO), ph.
**Long-eared Owl:** PBP 11 Mar.
**Short-eared Owl:** not reported.
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** CP 18-19 Mar.
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 5 Moravian Cemetery, RICH 11 May (HF); 3 Forest Hills 20 May (CF); 2 E52 St 21 May (AF), *intro*; scarce, < 25 birds rep.
**Chuck-will's-widow:** Napeague 16 May thru (AnW, mob); Quogue Preserve, SUFF 25 May thru (ES).
**Whip-poor-will:** Edgewood Preserve, SUFF 19 Apr thru (JGl, mob); CP 2 May (fide TF); PP 4 May (mob).
**Chimney Swift:** arr 16 Apr; 200 PP 10 May (PD); 250 RMSP 15 May (SSM), *intro*; 50 Caumsett SP 25 May (PM); large numbers.
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Southold, SUFF thru 17 Mar (JSe); Caumsett SP thru 28 Mar (KF); CLP thru 21 Apr (CB); Wading River, SUFF 3 Apr (RG); CP 2-4 May (mob); RMSP 2 May (SSM); JBWE 5 May (KT); JBWE 15 May (RBA); Stony Brook, SUFF 18 May (H. Moller).
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr 10 Mar, early.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** FP 8 May (DK); CP 9 May (JD), early; widespread from 14 May; 2 PP 14 May (AxW); 2 PP 16 May (RJ, HL).
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr 2 May, early.
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 14 May.
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr APP 14 May (SW); West Hills Co P, SUFF 15 May (BBo); PP 16 May (RJ, HL); FP 17 May (AB); CLP 20 May (JGa); Wagner College, RICH 23 May (HF); 2 CP 25 May (RBA).
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr RMSP 15 May (KF), early, *intro*; 6 other rep.
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr 5 May, early.
**Least Flycatcher:** arr MLUA 30 Apr (JGa).
**E. Phoebe:** arr PP 10 Mar; 63 JBWE 2 Apr (AB), large number.
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 28 Apr.
**E. Kingbird:** arr Shadmoor SP, SUFF 3 Apr (BHo, fide AnW), very early.
**White-eyed Vireo:** Heady Cr, Southold, SUFF 31 Mar (CR), very early; scarce on local breeding grounds until mid-May.
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr CP 30 Apr.
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr CLP 4 Apr (HF), very early.
**Philadelphia Vireo:** CP 14 May (SA, GH, JR); CP 15 May (MT, *et al*); FP 20 May (RA).
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr CLP 21 Apr (CB), early.
**Blue Jay:** RMSP 15 May (SSM), usually absent from barrier beaches; *intro.*
**COMMON RAVEN (R10):** 2 Oakland L, QUEE 8 Mar (SW); Frick Estate, Roslyn,

NASS 10 Mar (PM); 2 ad Kew Gardens, QUEE, thru (CF, mob), CO 3y; 2 Clay Pit Ponds SP, RICH 15 May (EJ); no rep BRON, where regular past few seasons; *intro*; see article this issue.
**Purple Martin:** arr Sag Harbor 11 Apr (HM); JBWE 6 May (DK); large colonies rep Cove Hollow Farm & Arden Av., RICH.
**Tree Swallow:** arr JBSP 2 Mar (BB), very early; widespread 17 Mar.
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr CP 28 Mar (RBA), very early; 8 RMSP 15 May (SSM), *intro.*
**Bank Swallow:** arr 7 Apr, early; 30 Caumsett SP 25 May (PM).
**Cliff Swallow:** arr Breakwater Beach P 25 Apr (JSe); 6 KP 12 May (CF); max 9 RMSP 15 May (SSM), *intro.*
**Barn Swallow:** arr Sag Harbor 28 Mar (HM), early.
**House Wren:** arr CP 15 Apr (MT), early; widespread 24 Apr.
**Marsh Wren:** arr 1 May.
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr HLSP 18 Mar; last 30 Apr.
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 5 Apr, incl. 10 CP; last 16 May.
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 4 Apr (RBA), early.
**E. Bluebird:** Shinn 7 Mar (TWB, GB); only 17 other rep; max Caumsett SP 20 Mar (SF).
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** FP 8 May (SA); West Hills Co. P 15 May (BBo); 10+ addtl reports.
**BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** PP 12 May (SB, RJ!); FP 13 May (SB, CF, DG); PP 16 May (RJ, HL); APP 22 May (JV, mob).
**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush:** SMSP 9 May (VP); 2 FP 15 May (SA); APP 19 May (VP).
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Southold 30 Apr (JSe); CP 2 May (fide TF), early.
**Hermit Thrush:** arr 10 CLP 6 Apr (HF); 10 CP6 Apr (CF); max 150 CP 30 Apr (MT); 120 PP same day (DG); CLP 19 May (JGa), late.
**Am. Robin:** group of 4-5 leucistic birds APP.
**Gray Catbird:** 6 SMSP 21 Mar (VP), from winter? widespread 11 Apr, early; bird trapped in IBM Atrium 590 Madison Ave, NEWY, overwintered, rep 23 Mar (Joseph Pescatore).
**Brown Thrasher:** arr CHP 16 Mar, early; widespread 4 Apr.
**Cedar Waxwing:** widespread and abundant, especially in May.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr CP 21 Apr, early.
**Golden-winged Warbler:** m CP 20 May (Craig Rasmussen!), late migr, only report.
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 30 Apr E52 St (AF), early; widespread 14 May.
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** HLSP thru 19 Apr (KF, mob); PP 18 Mar – 29 Apr (RBA, mob); CLP 6 Apr (HF); PP 19 Apr (DG); FP 20-24 Apr (PR, mob); CP 24 Apr (RBA); 2 PP 1 May (RJ, SA, DK, *et al*); FP 1-14 May (TWB, GB, mob), m singing at the Water Hole; FP 5 May (CF); E 52 St 17 Mar (AF), unusual loc.
**Nashville Warbler:** arr 20 Apr Willowbrook P (RV), very early.
**N. Parula:** arr HLSP 5 Apr (RJK), very early.
**Yellow Warbler:** arr 2 E 52 St 16 Apr (AF), early; widespread 22 Apr.
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr 30 Apr; widespread 14 May.
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr 30 Apr; widespread 14 May; 110 RMSP 15 May (SSM), *intro.*
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 2 May; max 8 CP 14 May (SA); ca. 25 other rep of ca. 35 birds.
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr PP 24 Apr; 70 RMSP 15 May (SSM), *intro.*
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** migr arr HLSP 18 Mar; max 541 PP 30 Apr (DG); last 23 May.
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr CP 18 Apr.
**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Garvies Pt Preserve, NASS 28 Apr (RC, fide MN); CP 30 Apr, details desired; CP 6 May (AG!); Quogue Preserve 13 May (ES, *et al*).
**Pine Warbler:** Quogue thru 2 Mar (RM); arr PP 20 Mar; migr thru approx. 30 Apr.
**Prairie Warbler:** arr HLSP 21 Apr (RJK), early.
**Palm Warbler:** GKP 25 Mar, migr or wintering?; arr 2 HLSP 4 Apr (RJK); migr thru approx 15 May.
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr CP 1 May (DF), early; widespread 14 May.
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr FP 1 May (TWB, GB), early.
**Cerulean Warbler:** PP 30 Apr (DG); CP 30 Apr-2 May (fide TF); CLP 2 May (SSM).
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr CP 7 Apr, very early.
**Prothonotary Warbler:** SPCP **24 Mar** (BGr), record early date; Fuch's Pd, East Northport.
SUFF 3-18 Apr (GL, NK, mob); CP 26 Apr – 1 May (SH, mob); Willowbrook P 30 Apr – 6 May (RV, TB); CLP 30 Apr (CB); CLP 19-20 May (JGa, EJ).
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr FP 15 Apr (PR), very early.
**Ovenbird:** arr 24 Apr; bird trapped in IBM Atrium 590 Madison Ave, NEWY, overwintered, rep 23 Mar (Joseph Pescatore).

**N. Waterthrush:** arr 18 Apr, early; 12 FP 29 Apr (SA); 18 PP 30 Apr (DG).
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 2 Apr; last 30 Apr (FP).
**Northern/Louisiana Waterthrush:** Jam Bay 19 Mar (JA, RJK!), identified by call note; very early for either species.
**Kentucky Warbler:** APP 5-7 May (K&SF, MN); VSSP 9-10 May (BB, RJK, mob); PP 22 May (PD, mob); rep CP 3 May, 8 May, 10 May.
**Mourning Warbler:** arr APP 7-9 May (K&SF, MN, TWB), early; widespread 14-23 May.
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr CP 19 Apr (SH), early; widespread 1 May; bird trapped in IBM Atrium 590 Madison Ave, NEWY, overwintered, rep 23 Mar (Joseph Pescatore).
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Riverside P, NEWY 20 Apr (JN); 14 rep of at least 15 birds, incl. singing m Rocky Pt 21 May thru (RK).
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr CP 2 May (fide TF), early.
**Canada Warbler:** arr FP 1 May, early; 33 RMSP 15 May (SSM), *intro.*
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** CP 2 May (fide TF); CP 13-14 May (mob); FP 15 May (SA).

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** widespread 7 Apr, early; numerous March rep, migr or wintering?
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr sev loc 4 Apr; 20 Owls Head P4 Apr (AxW), early.
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** DOP 16 May (AxW!).
**Field Sparrow:** 2 JBWE thru 19 Mar (KF).
**Vesper Sparrow:** not reported, though likely present in breeding habitat.
**Savannah Sparrow:** 45 FMCP 17 Apr (CF).
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Lutheran Cemetery, QUEE 12-15 May (DC, fide K. Mirth), ph, unusual loc; breeders Calv and vic.
**Nelson's Sparrow:** MNSA 17 Apr (BB), early; Napeague 2 May (AnW); MNSA 15 May (SyS); CCP 23 May (PJL, SSM); Plumb Beach 31 May (DG); all reports *subvirgatus.*
**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** arr 1 May; widespread 5 May.
**Seaside Sparrow:** Plumb Beach 16 Apr (DG).
**Fox Sparrow:** last CP 2 Apr, Montauk 10 Apr; *intro.*
**"SOOTY" FOX SPARROW:** *Unalaschcensis* subspecies group CP 13-14 May (SC, AR, mob), ph, first state record, *intro.*
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr CP 10 May; at least 16 rep of 21 birds.
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 imm JBWE thru 2 Apr (mob); 3 Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF thru 6 Apr (HM); 4 Calverton 28 Mar (RBA), Montauk 3 Apr (VB); 2 Jam Bay 30 Apr (SA, RJK); 2 JBWE 30 Apr – 2 May (mob); ca. 25 reports during May.
**Lapland Longspur:** 3 JBWE thru 5 Mar (K&SF).
**Summer Tanager:** arr 2 May (RBA); at least 15 rep of 16 birds; 2 FP 23 May (SA), imm m singing and displaying with fem.
**Blue Grosbeak:** MP 1 May (AnW, HM); CP 11 May (mob); RMSP 12-16 May (KF, mob); Hoyt Farm P, SUFF 13 May (JGl); Riverside P, NEWY 13-14 May (mob); Brookhaven Natl Lab, SUFF 15 May (RK); FP 16 May (CF, mob); DOP 16 May (AxW); Camp Hero SP 17 May (AnW); Eastport, SUFF 23 May - thru (TWB, GB, SA, mob); 2 Cutchogue, SUFF 23 May (RBA); 2 Calverton 30 May – thru (RBA).
**Indigo Bunting:** arr CP 16 Apr (CC), early; 7 Muttontown Preserve, NASS 22 May (BB).
**PAINTED BUNTING:** imm m Sea Cliff, NASS 2 May (R. Blackburn, fide MN), ph.
**Bobolink:** arr 6 PP 27 Apr (RJ), early; 2 MP 1 May (AnW, HM); 85 Garvies Pt Pres 3 May (MN, mob), large number; 35 same loc. 4 May, 6 same loc. 5 May (MN); 2 KP 12 May (CF); 8 Huntington Station, SUFF 15 May (BB).
**E. Meadowlark:** frequent rep Calv.
**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** MLUA 12-14 Apr (fide SIW), ph.
**Rusty Blackbird:** 23 Mill Neck, NASS 6 Mar (PM); as many as 8 singing m APP thru 28 Apr (RJK); last 3 APP 1 May (AB); not present HLSP, where usually regular in spring (RJK).
**Boat-tailed Grackle:** many rep coastal RICH & south shore LI; max 50 GKP 2 Apr (JGa); 35 Lido Passive Nature Center, NASS 18 Apr (BB); 9 Howard Beach, QUEE 30 Apr (SA).
**Orchard Oriole:** arr 29 Apr, early; widespread breeding.
**Purple Finch:** CP 8 May (MT), only report.

## EXOTICS

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 Yaphank, SUFF thru 10 Mar.
**Mitred Parakeet:** 12 Hillcrest, QUEE 1-7 Apr (SA, mob); approx. 10 Lutheran Cemetery 1, 3 Apr (DC, fide K. Mirth); ph, all same flock.
**European Goldfinch:** PP 1 May (DK, RJ, SA, *et al*).

## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY - adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P - park; Pd - Pond; ph - photographed; Pt - Point; Res - Reservoir; Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:
the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is 7 March
Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is 7 June
Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is 7 September
Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is 7 December

REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS
1. NIAGARA FRONTIER
2. GENESEE
3. FINGER LAKES
4. SUSQUEHANNA
5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN
6. ST. LAWRENCE
7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN
8. HUDSON-MOHAWK
9. HUDSON-DELAWARE
10. MARINE
20 0 20 40 60 80 100 Kilometers
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FRANKLIN
ESSEX
ST LAWRENCE
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HAMILTON
WARREN
WASHINGTON
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